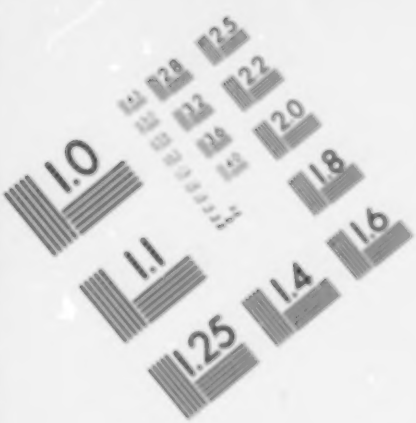

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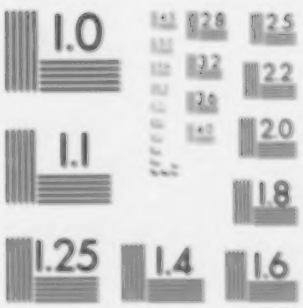

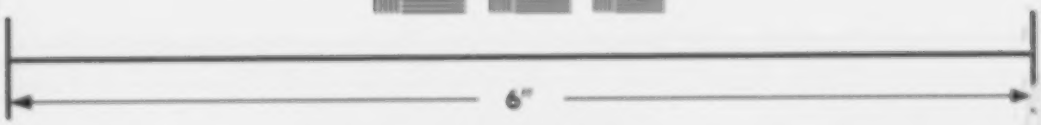

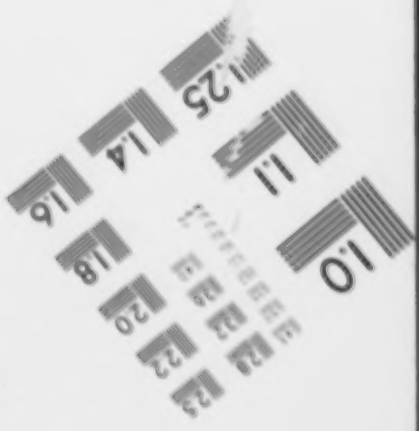

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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

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Higher State Council Chairman Boudiaf was interviewed by a London-based Arabic international television station. Among the points he made was that the creation of the Council was constitutional, that the use of mosques for political purposes is "unacceptable," that the Islamic Salvation Front will not be disbanded as long as it "accepts the democratic game," and that there will be no government reshuffle "at the present time." Boudiaf also discussed relations with the Army.

Israel

Mosad and Syrian intelligence personnel have been holding informal contacts to prepare for a bilateral peace agreement based on a partial Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, DAVAR reported, citing "reliable diplomatic sources in the United States." The Knesset rejected two no-confidence motions based on the guarantees issue, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Earlier, Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that funds received by the loan guarantees "would be used solely for immigrant absorption and would not be invested beyond the Green Line," Tel Aviv radio reported. The ambassador to Washington told Jerusalem television that agreement on the guarantees would create jobs in the United States.

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat sent a message to King Fahd, according to Algiers Voice of Palestine, which added a PLO spokesman's comment that the message was part of an exchange taking place amid "joint Arab efforts to get away from sensitive questions and issues of the past."

Iran

The country's revolution celebrations continued with a speech by Ahmad Khomeyni, broadcast by Tehran radio. Khomeyni said the country "will have a grudge" against the United States forever, "unless it behaves itself," and that "following Khamene'i is the same as following (Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeyni."

Egypt

Security officials uncovered an attempt by Sudan to infiltrate "terrorist elements" that would "carry out hostile acts against leading figures," MENA reported, citing AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I. Those who tried to infiltrate were trained and financed by the Sudanese Islamic Front, but originated from Iran, the agency continued. Meanwhile, counterterrorism experts were sent to Algeria, AL-SHA'B affirmed. The paper added that a second team had contacted some Gulf countries in an effort to persuade Iran not to support the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front.

Pakistan

The ambassador to Washington said that remarks attributed to her regarding a "softening" of the country's position on relations with Israel are "false, malicious, and quoted out of context," THE NEWS reported.

India

The External Affairs Ministry said remarks by a Pakistani official on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir have caused "deep concern," according to Delhi radio, which later reported the prime minister's comments on his "free and frank talks" with his Pakistani counterpart.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Ghali Sends Message on Arab League-UN Relations

NC0202160292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received a message from UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali on the Security Council's recent resolution regarding cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations.

In his message, Dr. Ghali proposed that the Arab League send an envoy to attend a preparatory meeting to be held in New York within the next few days to prepare for the Somali national reconciliation meeting.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has decided to send Assistant Arab League Secretary General Mahdi al-Hadi to attend this meeting.

AESC Rejects Iraqi Request To Discuss Boycott

NC0202155692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] The permanent representatives of the Arab Economic and Social Council [AESC] decided during their meeting today at Arab League Headquarters in Cairo to reject Iraq's request to include lifting the economic boycott imposed on it on the AESC's agenda. The AESC begins its ministerial-level meetings in Cairo on Wednesday. The representatives clarified that this subject is beyond their specialization.

Libyan Delegation Scores UN 'Double Standards'

LD0102181292 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Paris, al-Nawwar [February] 1, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The delegation of Great Jamahiryah taking part in the 48th session of the United Nations Committee of Human Rights asserted that the U.N Security Council [word indistinct] 1967 passed 13 resolutions against the Zionist enemy for human rights violations in occupied Palestine, and that such resolutions were directly related to the policy of oppression, tyranny and torture being conducted by the Zionist occupying forces against the Palestinian Arab people including murder, torture, expulsion, confiscation of land and property by force, and denial of the legitimate rights of that people to self-determination and the establishment of its independent state.

The delegation pointed out that the U.N. resolutions against the Zionist enemy were implemented either as a result of the refusal by the Zionists or the use of veto by those who support them materially and morally and stand by them with all means, which constitute in fact a denial of the rights of the Palestinian people and a biased stance in favour of the Zionist enemy.

The delegation stressed that the Third World peoples began to believe that the Security Council resolutions are only implemented however unfairly they might be against third world countries but resolutions against other major powers who are above international responsibility were useless and could not be executed.

The delegation asked [word indistinct] Security Council and instrument of international decisions which enhance the norm of justice and equality vis a vis all states of is it an instrument of international decision based on double standards.

The delegation concluded their speech by asserting that "if the Security Council did not realise justice and equality and enhance peace and security in the world, international legality will lose its credibility before all peoples and nations of the globe."

Egypt Foiled Sudanese-Backed 'Sabotage Attempt'

PM3101163092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Foils Terrorist Attempt, Accuses Sudanese Islamic Front"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—A senior security official in Cairo has revealed that Egyptian security organs recently foiled a sabotage attempt by extremist Egyptian elements linked to the Sudanese [National] Islamic Front.

The official said that the attempt included the assassination of a number of Egyptian security leaders to cause confusion. The official also said that the terrorist elements—whose number he refused to reveal for reasons connected with the investigations—confessed during questioning that they were financed by the Sudanese Islamic Front.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak warned the Sudanese Islamic Front and its leader, Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, about "playing with fire" and carrying out actions to threaten Egyptian security. The disclosure of this attempt comes while Cairo is preparing to receive Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, who arrives next week on a visit intended to try to end the deterioration in relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Arab League Mission To Visit Somalia 'Soon'

NC2901175992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with 'Abdallah Hassan Mahmud, Somali ambassador in Cairo and his country's envoy to the Arab League.

After the meeting, the Somali ambassador said the meeting focused on developments in Somalia and efforts

made to halt the current conflict. He added that an Arab League fact-finding mission led by Assistant Secretary General Mahdi Mustafa al-Hadi will visit Somalia soon to contact the warring parties in an effort to stop the fighting and to urge them to resolve their dispute through peaceful means.

The Somali ambassador called for the formation of an Arab peace-keeping force to go to Somalia and stop the fighting and achieve stability, something the Somali people are seeking. He also appealed to Arab countries to act quickly and send material aid to the starving Somali people. He said foreign aid is arriving in Somalia but Arab nations are providing virtually no help.

Islamic Affairs

9th Islamic Thought Conference Concludes in Tehran

Study of Khomeyni's Thoughts Urged

LD0102141792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The Ninth Islamic Thought Conference ended this afternoon in Tehran with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni delivering a speech and the conference issuing its final statement. Thinkers from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 47 other countries participated in the conference.

The 12-point statement the participants approved says, in part, that all the researchers, ulema, officials, and those involved with Islamic movements worldwide must begin studying the thoughts of Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise. They must pay due regard to his views and thoughts.

The conference also invited leaders of the Islamic movements to forge cooperation and coordination in planning to confront plots by the enemies of Islam and to safeguard Islam's immaculate image. [passage omitted noting that the statement hails Khomeyni for writing Gorbachev and predicting communism's collapse and urges independent Muslim republics of the former USSR to cooperate with conference participants]

Article five of the statement says, in part: The Conference follows current events in Islamic territories with optimism, as well as anxiety, and condemns suppression of freedoms in Algeria.

Condemning the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, the Conference calls on regional countries to take on their own shoulders the responsibility for securing the region and not to allow the region to become an arena for muscle flexing by the arrogant powers, those who have never cared for Islam. [passage omitted on conference calling on the world to support the intifadah and to help liberate Jerusalem]

The final statement also supports the struggles of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan to establish an Islamic government in that country. It also declares its support for the rights of all Muslims everywhere, including Kashmir. [passage omitted]

12-Point Resolution Detailed

LD0102131292 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—The 9th Islamic Thought Conference (ITC) which wound up here Friday night, condemned the U.S. military presence in Islamic lands, particularly in the Persian Gulf. It also called on the regional countries to assume the responsibility of the security of the area themselves and "not allow the region be turned into an arena for invasion of the oppressive powers who care the least about the interests of Islam and Muslims."

A 12-point resolution issued on Friday night after three days of deliberations, also lashed out at Washington's so-called new world order. Instead, it voiced support for a new world order inspired by ethics and which would respect the will of the nations and their independence far from any intervention by the big powers.

Many prominent personalities from throughout the Islamic world attended the conference sponsored by the Islamic Propagation Organization.

The participants in their resolution also condemned what they described as suppression of freedoms in Algeria and emphatically called for respecting the will of its Muslim nation and fulfillment of their wishes.

On Palestine the Conference rejected compromising solutions to the issue and urged the Muslim states to assume their responsibility towards the liberation of the holy lands from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean.

It also voiced support for the struggles of the people of Afghanistan to establish an Islamic state in their country, for the resistance of the heroic people of Lebanon against the aggressions of the Zionist regime, and for any struggle towards the restoration of the legitimate rights of Muslims in different corners of the world, including in Kashmir.

Hailing the independence of the Islamic Republics and their inclination towards the Islamic world, the resolution called on the Muslims to accomplish their responsibilities towards these Republics.

Elsewhere, the Conference called on the leaders of the liberation and Islamic movements to hold consultations with each other and coordinate their stances in a bid to counter the plots against them. They have also been urged to preserve their Islamic nature and refrain from acts which would serve "deviated regimes", such as issuing of religious decrees which may cause discord among the Muslims.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation Holds News Conference on Moscow Talks

NC0302203192 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent Mahir Shalabi in Jerusalem on a news conference by Palestinian delegation members Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Hanan al-'Ashrawi in Jerusalem on 3 February]

[Excerpt] [Shalabi] Twenty-four hours after their return to the occupied territories from Moscow, the Palestinian delegation held a news conference in Jerusalem in which they explained the reasons they did not participate in the multilateral talks. The delegation members focused on the link between the multilateral and bilateral talks. They stressed that the Arab parties are committed to their position that progress in the work of the committees formed by the Moscow conference hinges on progress in the bilateral talks scheduled to convene in the second half of February.

[Begin recording] [al-Husayni] When we received the invitation to attend the conference, it noted that the formula for the Palestinian presence would be the same as in Madrid. This violates one of the most important foundations of the peace process. They are trying to make the Palestinian choice to avoid confrontation at the start a condition for the whole peace process. We reject this.

['Urayqat] The first and only lesson learned from the Moscow conference is that the absence of Arab coordination may prove disastrous to all Arabs and their interests. We warned of this danger before the Moscow and Madrid conferences. Now there is considerable Arab conviction on this. I do not think much of governmental coordination, but I do think a certain mechanism will emerge soon to enhance Arab coordination.

['Ashrawi] Dividing the refugee question into humane issues and geographical zones, which Israel is trying to do, means abolishing the national, political, and comprehensive dimensions of the Palestinian cause as well as international legality and the accumulated and unimplemented resolutions on compensating refugees and returning them to their homes. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Hawatimah Hails Jordan's 'Positive' Role at Talks

JN0302183992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has described as positive Jordan's participation in the multilateral talks in Moscow and its prior intimation that its delegation spoke for Jordan. Jordan's attendance at the Moscow talks in this capacity, added Hawatimah, has reopened the door for the Palestinians to send an independent team.

Mr. Hawatimah noted that, three months after the Madrid conference, a Palestinian groundswell of opposition has built in the occupied Arab territory against the configuration of Palestinian representation at the bilateral talks in Madrid and Washington. This has helped right the course of Palestinian representation so as to take in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the diaspora Palestinians, he told a news conference today. Hawatimah called for the Palestinian representation at the next bilateral stage of the talks to be corrected, in accordance with resolutions of the Palestine National Council and the Palestine Central Council, passed when the two met in Algiers and Tunis respectively.

Commentary Praises 'Brave Palestinian Stand'

LD0302185192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the Palestinian delegation to the Moscow multilateral conference returned to the occupied territories yesterday. Despite its boycott of these negotiations, the delegation managed to achieve a political breakthrough as the two cosponsors of the conference pledged to guarantee full Palestinian representation at the forthcoming rounds of the multilateral talks.

In spite of the international and even Arab pressures put on the Palestinian delegation to enter the negotiating hall on the basis of the formula of representation fixed in Madrid and not to waste the opportunity for a Palestinian presence at this international conference, the brave Palestinian stand was clear and firm. The delegation thus affirmed its commitment to the unity of the Palestinian people and the rejection of attempts made to divide them and turn their political and national issue into a mere humanitarian issue which does not go beyond the issue of refugees.

Entering the negotiating hall on the basis of the Madrid formula would have meant confirming the division and separation between the Palestinian people inside and outside [the occupied territories]. It would have also meant ruling out the demand for Arab sovereignty over east Jerusalem in the future. Since the topic of discussion at the Moscow conference went beyond bilateral talks and encompassed regional issues whose future impact will be reflected in the political, economic, and geographic equation, it was then necessary to insist on a full and integral Palestinian presence at this conference.

There is no doubt that the stand of the Palestinian delegation at the Moscow conference and its refusal to bargain over the cause of their people have reflected feelings of confidence in all the Palestinians in the occupied territories and abroad. This stand has also again confirmed that the Palestinian delegation was not

and will never be a mere feather tossed by U.S. or Arab winds which seek to dictate the stands it should take at the peace conference.

While we highly value the performance of the Palestinian delegation in Moscow and the political breakthrough it managed to achieve despite its absence from the conference, we express at the same time our deep regret at the stand of the Arabs who failed to adopt a unified strategy toward the Moscow negotiations and who did not raise the issue of Palestinian representation before attending this conference. Despite all this, the Palestinians managed on their own to achieve what the Arab states failed to achieve for the Palestinian cause in Moscow.

U.S. Seen 'Killing' Arab Moderation

PM3101142392 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Jan 92 p1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "The U.S. Shackles"]

[Text] If the United States, as a superpower, has a right to dictate its conditions to a small people such as the Palestinian people, then it is the right of these people to reject these conditions if they are illogical and run contrary to all the principles of rights, justice, and international legitimacy.

The experiment of the past three months, the duration of the U.S.-sponsored negotiations, has demonstrated that the U.S. Administration always turns to the Arab side for concessions to conceal its failure to wrest any such concessions from the Israelis. That explains its insistence that there should be no representatives from East Jerusalem or the Palestinians in the diaspora, who constitute 60 percent of the Palestinian people, in negotiations which will cover refugees, security, water, and disarmament, but not withdrawal from the occupied territory nor a halt to the building of settlements.

The American whip has drawn blood from our backs and has muzzled us and prevented us from crying out in pain or protest. The time has come for us to cry out and to protest against this flagrant U.S. partiality toward Israel. The composition of the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral negotiations in Moscow is a loud outcry. All that remains for the U.S. Administration to do is to tell the members of the Palestinian delegation the kind of underwear they should have on before joining the negotiations.

We had expected the U.S. Administration, which is now the adversary as well as the judge, to appreciate the flexibility of the Palestinian people and their leadership, respect their sacrifices and the blood of their martyrs, and respond to the many many concessions they made by not squeezing them further. However, it has continued to squeeze and to exercise the tyranny and injustice of the strong.

We say, frankly and without any embarrassment, that if the collapse of the negotiations is going to result from the presence at the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Moscow talks of a figure from East Jerusalem, capital of Arab and Islamic dignity, such as Faysal al-Husayni, who has more than once been received by U.S. State Department officials, and not from the increasingly provocative Israeli settlements, then we would welcome such a collapse and we would even welcome the collapse of such a regrettable peace process.

Our people have had enough U.S. hypocrisy. Inasmuch as the financial, economic, and military power of the United States, which has appointed itself defender of international legitimacy and human rights, has failed to stop the expansion, not to say building, of the settlements, then continuing the negotiations, making more concessions, and giving in to U.S. conditions are some kind of humiliating suicide which is difficult to accept.

Is it not a matter of shame that the number of new settlements built by Israel in the past three months of the negotiations is more than the number of settlements built in the previous three years?

We do not know what position the fraternal Arab states which have sent delegations to the multilateral talks in Moscow will take as they see the Palestinian delegation being prevented from entering the hall and as they see the Syrian and Lebanese seats vacant. All we know is that nothing is surprising in this bad Arab era.

By adopting such a posture the U.S. Administration is killing Arab moderation before killing the peace process, and is encouraging extremism and the extremists because that will precisely be the result of its continuous pampering of Israel and silence about all its government's provocations.

'Arafat Sends Message to Saudi King Fahd

LD0302182592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], President of the State of Palestine and Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization [PLO], today sent a written message to King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The message was delivered by Brother Hakim Balawi, member of Fatah Central Committee and the PLO representative, to Mr. Ibrahim al-Sa'id al-Ibrahimi, the kingdom's ambassador to Tunisia, at their meeting today.

Following the meeting, brother Hakim Balawi stated that numerous messages have been exchanged between brother president 'Arafat and His Majesty King Fahd, particularly in present circumstances when our nation is facing greater danger and challenges requiring more cohesion and joint Arab efforts to get away from sensitive questions and issues of the past, because our Arab credibility—and its core issue, that of Palestine—is

going through a most critical and grave stage. Moreover, the peace process dictates and requires continuous and intensive contacts and consultations between Arab leaders in the interests of our Arab nation, the cohesion of its ranks, and the underpinning of its stances in face of the impending dangers.

Hawatimah—Saudis 'Ready' for Ties With Israel

JN0302144392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Amman, 3 Feb (INA)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has announced that some Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, are ready to normalize relations with Israel and establish regional cooperation with it.

He told a new conference here today that Saudi Arabia is willing to do so notwithstanding the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Arab territories.

Mr. Hawatimah said preparations are currently under way to hold a popular conference in Jerusalem before the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington on 15 February. The conference will determine the shape of Palestinian participation in these talks.

Hawatimah did not express any satisfaction with the negotiations, saying they caused divisions among the Palestinians.

He stressed the need for Palestinians and Arabs to agree on a clear peace plan based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and removed from U.S. pressure.

He said the DFLP is in the process of launching a plan calling for Arab solidarity and promotion of Arab interests on common grounds.

Jerusalem Congress To Address Talks Representation

NC0302204692 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent Sa'd al-Silawi in Amman on news conference by Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, on 3 February]

[Text] DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah stressed that Palestinian representation at the multilateral conference in Moscow must be corrected at the fourth round of bilateral talks in Washington this month. He said that the Madrid formula of Palestinian representation should be put right so that representatives from Jerusalem and the diaspora can join the negotiating delegation. At a news conference in Amman today, he stated that the front he leads is planning to convene a general popular congress in Jerusalem.

[Begin Hawatimah recording] This general popular congress will issue a call to Palestinians and all Palestinian and Arab leaders unequivocally rejecting the Madrid conference formula in the bilateral talks and stressing the need to put it right to ensure unified Palestinian representation. The call will stress reconsideration of the composition and expansion of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks to include representatives from Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the diaspora. [end recording]

Qaddumi—French Approved Habash Hospitalization

LD0402091792 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi stated that the PLO had received the agreement of the French Government for Dr. George Habash, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine secretary general, to go to Paris. He refused to give details about the persons who took that decision.

Qaddumi considered that the disagreement in France erupted as a result of the coming provincial elections, the internal situation, and the Zionist lobby there.

Algeria

Boudiaf Details Goals of Higher State Committee

NC0402104792 London MBC Television in Arabic 2007 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Interview with Higher State Council Chairman Mohammed Boudiaf by unidentified correspondents; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Boudiaf] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May peace and prayers be upon the most honorable messenger.

I returned to the homeland two weeks ago, and I have devoted this time to acquainting myself with the situation prevailing in the country. I can say now that my assessment of developments in this situation is not far from the truth. During my exile I always tried to keep in close contact with the country and the events taking place in it. I was also eager, during those years, to make most contributions of advice to the Algerian people and to draw their attention to the dangers surrounding the situation. I did this through analyses, statements, and stands I adopted, despite the ban that the successive authorities tried to impose on my stands. Everyone knows that those attempts reached the point where my role was concealed, as was that of a number of brother companions in the struggle during the national liberation war.

As an introduction to our interview, I can summarize the situation in Algeria in the following words:

In the economic field, Algeria complains of negative growth and a drop in investment, production, and productivity. On the political level, we noticed a tragic rift between the leadership, which was preoccupied with its political games, and the popular grass roots, in which was generated a lack of trust and a feeling of loss as a result. On the social level, there is a continuous deterioration of the conditions of the citizens, particularly the powerless among them, as is the case of the youth, who have been transformed into a victim of unemployment and the street—this, despite the huge sacrifices which were made and the large amounts of money which were spent. On the moral level, the national identity was nearly lost, and this led to paving the way for various influences, as the country became the scene of acts against the most sacred values of our people.

This situation deteriorated rapidly during 1991 until matters reached, at the beginning of this year, a point which made us fear that Algeria would face a civil war and become a field for foreign intervention. At that time, the dynamic forces in society, including the National People's Army, adopted a national stand as one man, which deserves to be saluted, and thus an end was put to the slipping toward the abyss. I responded to the call of national duty and accepted the assumption of my national responsibilities. I put myself at the service of Algeria, and I have not been prompted by any other ambition other than to unite all Algerians with a view to saving the homeland. I do not forget for one single moment that the task is enormous and arduous, but today I am, as I was yesterday, convinced that the Algerian people will find in themselves the strength and the means to enable them to emerge victorious from this new ordeal.

After these clarifications about the circumstances surrounding my return to the homeland, and after the installation of the Higher State Council, which I have the honor to chair and which has assumed power in the country, it is incumbent upon us to start tackling the problems that I mentioned earlier.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving us this opportunity to interview you. My first question is: A Higher State Council was proclaimed to confront the institutional crisis that faced the country following President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation. Some controversy surrounds this. What is your comment from a constitutional point of view?

[Boudiaf] Before I begin, I wish to tell everyone that I will use simple terms in order to make my words clear to the majority of Algerians. To answer your question, the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid left a constitutional vacuum. A number of brothers discussed the issue from a constitutional viewpoint. This does not concern me. What concerns me is this: The country was facing a crisis and needed to be rescued. This was more important in my view than constitutional matters. I answered the call and returned to Algeria because I was certain that Algeria needed it. It did not need one particular person but rather needed to mobilize its energies. I ask God to let my return bring the brothers—parties and organizations—closer together so that we can extricate the country from its crisis.

[Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, to continue with the issue of the Constitution, is there a possibility of suspending the 1989 Constitution in order to remove the previous loopholes and mistakes?

[Boudiaf] That is an issue which we have not yet studied. Perhaps in the future. Until now, the Constitution is still valid, particularly because the change which took place at the top in Algeria was a change that occurred within the framework of the institutions. I would like to emphasize this issue: We respect some issues: First is the state of law, and second, we preserve the democratic course and private liberties. Therefore, until now, the Constitution was not the subject of investigation or change. Perhaps this might happen, and also perhaps it might not happen. We should leave this to time.

[Correspondent] What about the Consultative Council? Have its members been selected? And how is this selection going to be carried out?

[Boudiaf] The Higher State Council had a theory that these people should be consulted. We chose this institution because we considered it suitable. As for its selection, its character should first be impartial and also

competent. This institution should be a mirror of Algerian society, to look into and study the problems of Algeria at the request of the Higher Council. We think that it will be greatly beneficial because it will have the scope to study some issues and present them to the Higher Council to look into. For this we must have a vision of Algerian society represented in this group which we select, and whose selection should be based on being representative of Algerian society and on being new people, i.e. those who have not participated in that [as heard]. They also should be cultured and able so that they can study the problems of the country. This is the issue for the Consultative Council.

[Correspondent] In the same context, Mr. Chairman, there are many questions today on Algeria's political scene concerning the future of the democratic process and the future of political parties. Will there be a reshuffle of the political scene in Algeria? What are your thoughts?

[Boudiaf] So far there is no policy. The parties exist and are free to operate, but within the framework of the law. These parties... [changes thought] I have already talked about the democratic process and said that I was not convinced... [changes thought] As a matter of fact, Algeria's democratic process began after the events of 1988 and imposed itself on Algeria. The Algerian people had not participated for years in either the polemics, organization, or... [changes thought] I was very apprehensive of this aspect. That reflects the great number of political parties. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, there has been talk of reconsidering the law on political associations and on licenses for political parties.

[Boudiaf] So far there is no such talk. But there is something that we also have to consider. I think that some parties rely on government grants. In the near future all parties will have to manage their own affairs. If they have militants with ideas, those militants should support them. As to parties which rely solely on government aid, this is not acceptable because Algeria needs its money, and we rather they [words indistinct]. Precolonial parties did not have aid; their militants supported them. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] There have been rumors circulating recently about the status of some of the political parties and their concordance with the democratic course, such as the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. What is your stand in this regard?

[Boudiaf] The FIS is a party like the other parties, and it is recognized as such. This I will not go back on. Maybe some people made statements, which I have heard, calling for disbanding the Front, but it will not be, however, on the condition that the Front accepts the democratic game. The only concern is that in the name of democracy, some people might wish to destroy democracy, and that is unacceptable. However, it is another matter if these people have ideas and have programs, and therefore have full freedom.

On the other hand, using the mosques and using religion for political purposes is unacceptable because the mosques are for worship. If the Salvation Front has the mosques, and other parties also have the right to go to the mosques, then the situation will be chaos. Therefore, the mosques and the public places must be kept from them. If those people are indeed favoring Algeria's interests, they could gather and meet, but within the framework of the law, and they should respect the law. The authorities are determined that the law must be respected by everyone. If those people work within this framework, then they are welcome. They could bring us new ideas. Do you understand? You remember what Sa'ad Zaghlul said: The homeland is for all, and religion is for God.

I regret to hear some people calling for jihad. Are we a country of infidels? We are Muslims, and Islam is well known in Algeria. Algeria is a Muslim country, and that is not a problem. I have said in the newspapers that the problem in Algeria is not religion. Religion calls for brotherhood, cooperation, and mutual help in our ethics, manners, and dealings. It is not empty slogans [words indistinct] the world is a spectator of our tragedy.

I believe that the danger has distanced the people even from their love for the homeland because in the incidents which occurred in [word indistinct]... [changes thought] Foreign radio stations and news agencies had early information. I heard—I do not know if this is true or official—that the Salvation Front, I mean, said to the French: Your thinking is right because the head of state [words indistinct]. Our problems are internal. We must not seek assistance from foreign countries with a history of involvement in Algeria. That is unacceptable. This is why I call on the youth to be wary of such ideas. The current conflict is not a government conflict against the people, as some say. All the government wants is to see the law respected. I am positive that democracy [words indistinct] because democracy and building it are not easy. [passage omitted]

The authorities are determined in this respect to bring things back to their normal course for the benefit of democracy. Democracy cannot be used for its own destruction. I was sure that if things had gone the way they were heading, without the intervention of the Army and loyal people we would have headed for the abyss.

[Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, to continue what you were saying, there is obviously a state of panic abroad vis-a-vis the security situation, some of whose aspects you have mentioned. Are you comfortable with the security situation and with foreign press reports of civil war or [word indistinct] fate of detainees. Could you tell us... [changes thought] found the situation in Algeria calm and stable.

[Boudiaf] Algeria did go through a very grave situation in 1962. [passage omitted] There might be deviations, but I

am not at all worried that Algeria might lapse into civil war, because its results would be... [changes thought] We have seen what has happened in some African countries, some sister countries such as Ethiopia and Somalia, where there has been war because of principles, which could be right or wrong; but by the time the war is over, their homeland will have been destroyed. If we want to destroy ourselves, we will have civil war. I do not think that Algerians will go to war, no matter what the circumstances, because the people's will is God's will. They are a conscious people; no matter what the differences, we will not go to war. The authorities are now sure we will not do that and they are doing their utmost so that things return to their normal course, and so that political dialogue resorts to politics, not violence, which we should cast away from our ethics because it does not solve any problems.

[Correspondent] In mentioning parties, are we to understand from what you have said that the National Liberation Front [FLN] will no longer be the state's party, and that it will become an independent entity?

[Boudiaf] [Passage omitted] After 30 years the FLN is now facing its own problems. Veterans told me that there are loyal and militant brothers. I told them that in any case talks concern them and absolute freedom. Never was there an intention to dissolve the Front. They said that at the congress. The authorities did not have that intention. The Front's problems, however, are within itself. If it is able to overcome and resolve these problems, that is fine. The same applies to the other parties. This political maneuvering [words indistinct]. It is known; the newspapers are saying it, and there might be an element of truth, namely that the vote for the FIS was a protest vote against the FLN, because [words indistinct]. If it is able to overcome them [words indistinct] if this political doubling [words indistinct] which is voting for the FIS to spite the FLN, because [words indistinct] grave responsibilities and may bear a great responsibility for our situation today. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You said at the beginning that the Army had moved within national forces to rescue the country and to avoid a dangerous pitfall. Could you tell us about the relationship between the Higher State Council and the military? How do you see the role of the Army in the current situation?

[Boudiaf] I took a stand in 1962. I was against certain groups within the Army because it was a different army. But today, and we should assure all Algerians of this, Algeria is fortunate because if some of its institutions failed and were unable to take a stand, God has granted it an army which is impervious to foreign intervention, an army with conscious youth. I have seen that myself when officers came to me. It is an army that has returned things to normal. I put a question to the Army's top hierarchy. I told them: The situation is in your hands. Why do you not take power [words indistinct]. That is the difference between... [changes thought] Some people think that what has happened is similar to what happened in 1965. No, today we have an army that does not want power and which accepts the democratic course. Today's army operates within the framework of the law. Therefore, I am proud of the army we have today.

As to its relation, it represents all higher bodies, carries out its duty, and does not at all seek power because it considers itself to have a bigger and wider duty than that. I have seen this and spoken to Mr. Nezzar and other officers. Praise be to God that Algeria has such an army which, under special circumstances, has taken a stand that does Algeria proud and keeps it away from disasters which could have posed a threat to it.

[Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, many analysts now say that Algeria's political situation is the result of difficult economic circumstances. You recently asked the government to focus on solving the economic crisis and on submitting proposals in that area. Do you have any specific directives in mind? Do you have a specific plan for getting out of the crisis?

[Boudiaf] We acknowledge the truth that Algeria does have a difficult economic problem which affects society [words indistinct]. The way things stand now, there are priorities. I said in my initial statement that Algeria's problem is one of youth. The young form an absolute majority, which means that they face all sorts of problems such as housing, the rising cost of living, unemployment, and so on.

That is why the Higher Council asked the government, and Mr. Ghozali, to prepare a plan to reinvigorate the economy. That is on the record. The aim is to mobilize potential. This will allow us to express our will in tangible decisions. From now on—there has always been harmony between the Higher Council and the government—we have asked Mr. Ghozali to propose a program, to prepare a quick plan to resolve... [changes thought] especially concerning Ramadan. The market will be supplied and prices will be controlled.

We promise the Algerian people that the Higher Council will follow up the results of every step taken by the government. I have asked the government for some files concerning indebtedness and housing. They are being studied. Perhaps we soon will give the people an idea about them, in all openness. I have told the brothers that the relationship between officials must be sincere, because sincerity breeds solidarity and trust. [passage omitted]

Algeria is indeed in crisis, a difficult crisis. It is an economic crisis, and money is short. There are many projects and demands. So, in the final analysis, the question is: Are the Algerian people and our youth prepared to mobilize, to face up to this? Then we would get out of this (?impasse). We have mentioned the FIS and these empty slogans, but we should tell our youth: Stand up and work hard, instead of preaching sermons and praying. We all pray. We like prayers. We like

religion. But Algeria needs youth that work hard, unified youth that will save their country from the current crisis.

[Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, in the context of the economic crisis, there has been talk inside and outside the country on some of the causes of the crisis, such as corruption and rampant bribery and the collapse of the socialist experiment. Will those responsible for corruption be tried if they are found?

[Boudiaf] [Word indistinct] this question and what happens in Algeria happens everywhere in the Third World. My view is that, first, the cortege leaves the dark tunnel, and then (?we see what happens). What one cannot tunnel [word indistinct] then [word indistinct] what one cannot accept is that a settling of accounts takes place tomorrow. I do not go along with that. But if there are people who stole state money, then we have courts, we have a state, we have justice. Obviously in this case there will be no pardons, but things must be on a sound basis, with evidence and proof. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, we heard a few days ago rumors of a government review, a government reshuffle to implement the economic project. Is this accurate?

[Boudiaf] Perhaps that will happen. It is possible. There is no problem. We want to cut state spending. This perhaps will require that we reduce all bodies. [passage omitted] Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali is assuming his responsibility. I think that in the current situation he is capable of performing his duties. We are with him. At any rate, the future of the country is not based on persons. We want to see people with competence, those who can resolve this situation, who have theories. [passage omitted]

No, at the present time, there will be no reshuffle, but perhaps a reshuffle will happen. Perhaps, but not a change of government.

[Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, as for the economic crisis, it is known that resolving the economic crisis in Algeria depends a great deal on the relationship between Algeria and its traditional cooperation partners. What do you expect from the partners in these conditions?

[Boudiaf] Algeria has been independent for 30 years. There are people it deals with in the economic field. What is required from these people, whoever they may be, is to know that Algeria is today in a real crisis. We do not hide this. Now we will see who are our friends and who are not our friends. We will see who really is cooperative with Algeria. Algeria has real potential. [passage omitted]

We tell the brothers, especially our Arab brothers—they have heard this before—if they can help us, then we will accept such help. Algeria has helped many people in this domain.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, accusations were made at the beginning of the events on the involvement of Iran in the crisis and the events. Has there been anything new after the withdrawal of ambassadors? Is there anything new on this matter? Do you have documents concerning this involvement?

[Boudiaf] Statements were made on the day of the crisis by deputies. They have been made public. We contacted the Iranian leadership and warned it about this issue. But, regrettably they did not listen. Algeria has perhaps done Iran (?a favor). First, it was one of the few Arab states that always said that the Iraqis started the war. This was Algeria's position. Second, concerning the Americans, they had problems which were resolved by Algeria. In the end it was Algeria which represented Iran. It was the one that was talking with America.

Iran openly interfered in Algerian issues. We do not accept this, by Iran or by anyone else. The position today is this: From now on—I have spoken with the foreign minister—if anyone, any state, for any reason interferes in Algeria's affairs, then we will present our position to them. We have our own domestic problems. We have nothing to do with Iran. So, we recalled our ambassador and they recalled theirs.

We hope, God willing, that these people will look to the past. I do not interfere in their affairs. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, we do not need to ask you a question about your position on France.

[Boudiaf] In France there were some French public figures [words indistinct] we have no problem with France or any other country, particularly with France, because we have old relations with it. Relations with France are clearly relations between two sovereign countries. We have removed from our relations all the ghosts of the past. This is our position on France or Iran or any other country.

[Correspondent] You have talked about the Arabs. Could you describe Algerian relations with the Arab countries? What is actually required of the Arab brothers?

[Boudiaf] As far as the Arab countries are concerned, their stand, with the exception of two or three countries, was positive. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and even Colonel al-Qadhdhafi telephoned me to convey congratulations, and so did Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania. Do you understand? Some countries were exceptions. Algeria is an Arab country with ties with the Arab world. Its destiny lies with the destiny of the Arab world.

I want to emphasize that we are sorry that today the Arab world contains divisions and disputes. Algeria is working to clear the Maghreb and Arab air.

Some people used to doubt the solidarity of the Arab world. I would like to draw the attention of these people to the fact that since the day we started the liberation revolution the Arab world received us, accepted us, and helped us before anybody else did. This is evidence of strong and firm relations between Algeria and the entire

Arab world. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq all helped the Algerian revolution before any Europeans started to help it. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Is the Arab Maghreb Union project moving onto a safer path?

[Boudiaf] Yes, a safer path. Algeria has a constant determination to see this edifice built because the issue of North Africa is not new. It is an old idea. If you remember, the first nationalist movement created in Algeria was called the North African Star. This idea has been deeply rooted in all generations. This is in the interest of everyone because we face blocs, European blocs and others. We would like to see our relations with the outside world not as Algeria's relations but as those of the Arab Maghreb. No doubt there are problems, but I can affirm that there is a real will to build the edifice of the Arab Maghreb.

[Correspondent] In this context, Mr. Chairman, can you describe Algeria's relations with Morocco? Is there a change of direction with regard to the Sahara issue and its resolution by peaceful and fraternal means?

[Boudiaf] There was indeed the issue of the Sahara between us, but there was already a fraternal intention on our part and by the Moroccans. I discussed this topic with them and we agreed that if our desire was to build the Arab Maghreb we had to find a solution to this issue as soon as possible. God willing, we will find a solution.

[Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, perhaps due to our rushed preparation of this program, there are matters about which we did not ask you any questions. Do you have a message for the viewers?

[Boudiaf] I have one thing to say: I have called on Algerians to unite and to work. Algeria's fate in the hands of the Algerians. Our well-being and our misfortune depend on us. But today we are aware and we are united and we mean well. There is no doubt that we will save our country from future crises. We ask every Algerian, today and tomorrow, to ask their conscience what their postion is. Do you understand? In order to build our revolution it seems to me that the people operating in these political parties should move toward national unity, for unity is strength. I am certain that Algeria has righteous people among its dynamic senior executives and professionals, its educated classes, its trade unions, and all its institutions. Righteous people will trimuph over the others. These are the people who will build the road to Algeria's prosperous future and who will save it from this present crisis. May peace be upon you. [passage omitted]

Brahimi Discusses Political Developments, Arab Ties

NC3101114192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi by unidentified correspondent in Algiers; date not given]

[Text] Algiers, 31 Jan (MENA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi has expressed Algeria's appreciation for Egypt and President Husni Mubarak's responsible stand concerning events in Algeria.

He said: President Mubarak called Prime Minister Ghozali, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa called me, and Mubarak made a statement and sent a cable to Mohamed Boudiaf, head of the Higher State Council. All these stands were greatly appreciated by all the brothers and were not surprising, as we expected as much from Egypt, its president, and government.

In an exclusive interview to MENA's Algiers correspondent, Brahimi said that this stand reflects fraternity and solidarity, and added that Algerians greatly appreciated it. We have expressed our appreciation to our brothers in Egypt over this stand in various ways.

Brahimi spoke of relations with Egypt, the constants of Algerian foreign policy since the liberation revolution, the current situation, Iran's position, the Arab League, Middle East peace talks, the Arab Maghreb Union, Algeria's nuclear reactor, and the outlook for progress and development in the Arab world.

On relations with Egypt, the Algerian foreign minister said: We have wasted a long time—many years—on crises, only some of which were valid. I believe that convening the joint committee in Cairo a few months ago has created, actually revived, firm foundations for promoting economic, cultural, and political cooperation through consultations between the two foreign ministries and others.

He described relations between the two countries as excellent, adding that we are capable of expanding them even further.

As for the foundations of Algerian foreign policy, Brahimi pointed out that it is based on constants that go back to the days of the liberation revolution and which are still relevant. We are an Arab country, so our Arab affiliation governs our relations with the brothers in the eastern part of the Arab world. During the liberation war we were privileged to receive great Arab backing, so much so that I and many of the brothers believe that that was one of our strongest weapons in facing the difficulties of those days. This backing gave rise to strong links with our brothers in the Arab east, and this too is one of the foundations on which our policy is based.

Brahimi added: We must admit that in recent times the pan-Arab objective that existed as a specific goal in the fifties and sixties has ceased to exist. Admitting this painful reality does not mean abandoning the objective but acknowledges that there has been a setback. It is an invitation for Arab strugglers to consider this issue and seek a new objective.

Touching on the situation in Algeria, the foreign minister quietly and confidently said: There is the good and

the bad. We believe that serious efforts are being made to ride out the economic and political crisis which was triggered by major change.

He added: It was natural and expected that this process would stumble because the changes, economic and political, are drastic. We want reconciliation. We must have a common concept of the society we need, and any differences and interpretations should concern only the method which would lead us to the common objective of democracy.

But, he added, if the objective was different, it would create a major problem and could lead to division, sedition, and civil war, which we have been trying to avoid and which we still hope we can. He said that it was impossible for society to accept extremism, exchanging one kind of one-party rule for another, or one kind of autocratic rule for another. We seek conciliatory methods to enable us to build a democracy that would unify, not divide, the people, Brahimi said.

He continued: It is surprising that Muslims should be divided over Islam, which should be a source of unity for confronting other sides. I do not understand why Islam should be a reason for differences, division, and fighting.

Brahimi criticized Islamic and opposition authors in Egypt for their interpretation of events in Algeria, saying: But there are writers who write out of their love of Algeria and concern for it. We are proud of these feelings and we welcome any question, comment, or criticism. Brahimi called on Islamic and opposition writers not to involve Algeria in their internal politics, adding: We have nothing to do with them. We are ready to talk to the brothers whose questions, criticism, and comments stem from their love and appreciation of Algeria. We tell whoever seeks to use and involve Algeria in their own affairs: Leave us alone. It is better for everyone, Brahimi added.

Asked about Iran's stand on events in Algeria and future relations between the two countries, the head of Algerian diplomacy said: Iran is a Muslim state in our region, with which we had fraternal ties. I believe that we never failed to support their right. They believe they have been disappointed, because they thought there would be a regime in Algeria that would help them more than ours is doing. They could have used that regime as a base for their moves in the region, if that was what they expected. They have been disappointed because Algeria will never be a base for any side, be it Iran, the north, or the West.

Brahimi continued: I have told some brothers that it is not the Foreign Ministry's job to sever relations. We are here to promote and develop relations; breaking them off is catastrophe. We will not do so. This is impossible. We will adapt to others' positions, be they Iran's or any other's. We have asked the brothers in Iran: How do you envisage our relations and what do you really seek from them? We will do what we agree upon and not what we do not agree upon.

Questioned on reports that should the Islamic Salvation Front take power, Tehran, Khartoum, and Algiers are to form an alliance, the Algerian foreign minister responded: Like you, we have only heard talk, to which we attach no importance. We do not accuse people, and we have no comment.

Commenting on the Middle East peace negotiations, Brahimi affirmed that Algeria's stand on the Palestinian issue supports the Palestinian people and their representatives, and that it opposes one-upmanship and bowing to pressure to be extremist or ultramoderate.

He said: We believe that the Palestinians have the right to choose the position they want. We must speak to them. We might differ, but when they do take a stand, we should respect and appreciate it.

He added: We have adapted our stand to the Palestinian position. For whatever reasons they did not attend. Nor did we. Had they attended, we were determined to do so, through our ambassador in Moscow. The process has been a big disappointment. Madrid started with difficulties and problems and did not achieve anything it was hoped would be achieved. The lack of results in Washington was particularly confusing and worrying, and it raised questions as to the Israeli stands and behavior in the territories, people being expelled, persecution continuing, settlements being built, and funds being allocated for this purpose.

He went on: We expect that the huge amounts of money given by the United States will be used indirectly to absorb the immigrant Jews and settlements, thus sparing the Israeli budget. This is very worrisome and prompts questions.

He said: We believe that the Americans do want a just peace, but the U.S. stand flatters Israel and favors it too much. This stand does not appreciate those of the Arabs, the immense difficulties that the Palestinian people face, and the sacrifices they have made.

As for the Arab League, Brahimi, a former assistant secretary general, said that it suffers a basic fault, which can be blamed on the Arabs. The Arab League was established on a misunderstanding. Sometimes they say it is a pan-Arab organization working to achieve unity among Arab countries and at other times they say it is a regional organization preserving the countries' independence and sovereignty. None of these can be accomplished, so it is neither. The current trend is for the League to be a regional organization working to achieve cooperation and solidarity among its independent member states, respecting each one and its sovereignty. The disaster of the occupation of Kuwait and the Gulf war has again undermined the Arab League.

Brahimi hoped that the Arab League would gradually overcome the deep wounds of the Gulf war and return a modicum of solidarity and cooperation to the Arabs.

As for an Arab League initiative on the situation in Somalia, Brahimi, who played an important role in establishing peace in Lebanon, said that there was an idea that the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, a number of foreign parties that can help—especially European parties such as Italy and Britain, which have historical ties with Somalia—and some other states that also have historical relations with Somalia, such as Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, should cooperate and organize their efforts to resolve the Somali issue. If we were to make a proposal, it would be this: that all these parties combine their capabilities and efforts to resolve the Somali issue, exactly as the Tripartite Arab Committee did in Lebanon with the complete support of Arab and foreign states. The first thing this committee did was to go to China, the United States, Russia, France, and the Vatican to mobilize all the parties that were capable of helping or to approach those capable of creating problems in an effort to avert their evil ways and suspend their support for any of the opposing Lebanese parties. Somalia needs something of this sort.

Regarding the Arab League stand on the Lockerbie issue and the threats being directed against Libya, he said that the Arab League issued a statement that said: We condemn terrorism. We support finding the truth in such tragedies. We support the punishment of any party or person proved to have played a role in these despicable operations. But we demand that Libya's rights and sovereignty be respected and that all substantial obstacles be resolved legally. No country would hand over its citizens because of a telephone call. Libya cannot be asked to do what no other country has been asked to do.

Concerning the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], the Algerian foreign minister said that it is still in its early stages. The Casablanca summit last September created the general secretariat and the consultative council, which have not yet started their work. Union really means achieving the various goals set, especially in economics, and practical cooperation among Union states.

On whether cooperation between AMU states and countries in southern Europe, within the framework of what is known as the five-plus-five group, will deter AMU states from honoring their commitments to other Arab states, Lakhdar Brahimi replied that there is nothing that will hinder the AMU states' Arab commitments.

He said that the five European countries are members of the Group of 12, the European Economic Community, except for Malta. Undoubtedly these states do not want to be committed to something that is not in keeping with their commitments to the EEC. We too are well aware of our position.

He added that the five-plus-five group signifies economic and cultural cooperation among neighbors in the western Mediterranean. We have communities in these countries and they too have communities in our countries. There is also the question of security. How can we reassure each other as neighbors, especially with the major changes taking place? The security of the western Mediterranean comes first. God willing, the rest of the Mediterranean will be an area of security, calm, and mutual confidence with no one fearing each other and no one feeling threatened.

Brahimi was then asked about the campaign launched by the Western media against Algeria's peaceful-use nuclear reactor in Ain Oussera, a campaign the intensity of which goes increases and falls according to developments in Algeria. The foreign minister said: We have a nuclear program, and there is a reactor near Algiers that comes under the guarantees of an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. There is a new reactor that has not yet begun operations but will soon, God willing. It will also be supervised by the IAEA.

He added: It is important for us, for Egypt, and for the Arabs that we recognize decisions, objectives, or maneuvers behind the campaign, which seeks to establish that our countries must not be allowed to command advanced technologies. He added: Even in the pharmaceutical industry, they [not further specified] say that the technology could be used to manufacture biological weapons. They say that it could be used in the soap industry to make chemistry [as received]. This means that we cannot make medicines or soap. We want to gain experience in an important field. We have very modest equipment in hospitals which provides treatment using cobalt nuclear material, which costs us $10-15 million per year. We want to gain experience in manufacturing these medical substances, thus saving us money to use to equip hospitals. We could even desalinate water using (?nuclear) means if we had the experience. And experience could also help us modernize agriculture and its production. Then there is energy. We have oil, but we will need other sources of energy.

The foreign minister added: We are determined to acquire this knowledge and technology. They do not want us to do so because they are afraid, they claim, that we might develop this science for weapons. This means that they may even tell us we cannot carry a knife, he added.

Brahimi noted that Israel possesses nuclear weapons and added: The time will come when we will talk about disarmament involving nuclear, mass- destruction, and conventional weapons in the region, to balance its countries and safeguard everyone's interests.

Brahimi pointed out that with respect to the Algerian nuclear reactor, it is a very small one and which is used scientifically. He added: IAEA experts twice inspected it, and an agreement between us is expected to take effect. We did not delay. Any holdup is on the part of the agency, which must submit the agreement to the [IAEA] administration in February. Doubts cannot be justified. Brahimi noted that certain quarters want us to remain at the mercy of others, so that we continue to import our needs and do not keep up to date in scientific fields,

whatever they may be. This does not only apply to nuclear weapons, but also to industrialization and modern technologies. They do not want us to achieve our aims. We, the Arabs, must think about our affairs and find our own solution, he added.

Asked if he is optimistic about Arab affairs in general, Brahimi said that the Arab peoples are scientifically able. Scientists have emigrated, and the universities and research centers in the West are full of our countrymen. We made mistakes, but we also have achievements.

He noted considerable progress in the Gulf, Egypt, and North Africa. All these achievements, he said, could serve as grounds for progress and for making the headway we nearly, but never quite, made. We must be optimistic yet realistic, he added. Concluding his interview, the Algerian foreign minister emphasized: We have the capabilities. The solution lies in work.

Egypt

Sudan Said Sponsoring 'Terrorist Elements'

NC0302143492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1236 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today cites well-informed sources as saying that security officials have uncovered an attempt to bring terrorist elements into Egypt to carry out hostile acts against leading figures, to inflame the public, and to create an antigovernment front.

According to the sources, the elements who tried to enter Egypt were trained and financed by the Sudanese Islamic Front, which is led by Hasan al-Turabi.

The sources disclosed that the Egyptian authorities recently obtained a file containing photographs of the training centers established by the Sudanese authorities to train groups sent by Iran to Sudan.

The sources said that the Egyptian authorities have documents implicating the Sudanese regime's involvement in training terrorist groups and sending them to several Arab countries, including Egypt.

Sudanese-Iranian Assassination 'Plot' Foiled

NC0202135792 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, Feb 2 (AFP)—Police foiled a plot to assassinate Egyptian security officials that was allegedly linked to Muslim fundamentalists in Sudan and Iran's intelligence services, a weekly Egyptian newspaper reported Sunday.

They recently foiled "the sabotage attempt" by "Egyptian extremist groups tied" to the Sudanese fundamentalist leader Hasan al-Turabi and financed by Iranian services, the government weekly AL-SIYASI claimed, quoting police.

The extremists planned to "assassinate Egyptian security officials" in Cairo, Alexandria and other areas. They were arrested "several hours" before carrying out their plan, police charged, according to the paper.

Some of those arrested admitted they had undergone "training in camps of Sudan's Islamic National Front [INF] (of al-Turabi)" in Sudan and that their operations were financed "by the Iranian secret services and the INF," the paper said.

The affair led Egyptian officials to temporarily reject a summit with Sudan because of the influence the front exerts on the Sudanese military government.

Egyptian Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said at a recent meeting of a parliamentary security committee that his services watched "extremist circles in Egypt who are in contact with other elements in Algeria, Sudan and Iran."

Counterterrorism Squad Sent to Algeria

NC0302211392 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Well-connected sources have told AL-SHA'B that an Egyptian security team, including several counterterrorism experts, left for Algeria last week following contacts between Egyptian authorities and the Algerian regime. The same sources added that the purpose of the Egyptian security team's visit is to stabilize the current situation in Algeria against any so-called unrest that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] could stir up to confront attempts to suppress it and arrest its leaders.

The sources pointed out that the Egyptian security team took with it studies on how to react if the situation explodes. The sources added that another Egyptian security team has been asked to secure matters related to Algeria externally and to follow up contacts that any foreign countries might make with Algerian citizens to maintain political coordination or organize work.

Reports emphasized that the Egyptian authorities have held contacts with some Gulf countries to urge them to persuade Iran not to support the FIS.

Musa Discusses Foreign Policy Issues

NC0202103492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] London, 2 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has denied that Egypt intends to enter a race over establishing relations with the Asian Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union. He emphasized that Egypt wishes to establish normal relations marked by understanding and cooperation. Egypt will establish relations with the newly independent states, particularly the Islamic states, while maintaining its relations with Russia and the other countries.

In an interview published today in the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Musa notes that Egypt has

good relations with Russia, which is a major country with a primary role in international events.

As for relations between Cairo and Tehran, the foreign minister said that Iran is a major country in the Gulf and that nobody wants to ignore this. We must give it what it is entitled to, however, and not exaggerate its role in Arab affairs. He added that Iran is part of the Third World and not just the Arab world [as received], and for this reason there must be a dialogue, consultations, and participation with Iran on a constructive basis. He emphasized that there are no contradictions between Egypt and Iran, for there are many areas where the two could cooperate.

As for Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Musa said that these are marred by some tension but that many ties remain. He noted that the role of the Sudanese Islamic Front in decisionmaking is one of the reasons for the current relationship.

Turning to the situation in Algeria, the foreign minister stated that Egypt supports stability in Algeria and that Egyptian-Algerian relations remain strong. He said that the situation deserves attention because we are interested in Algeria's stability, the progress of the Algerian people, and their march to emerge from the serious situation in the region.

Discussing the Moscow peace talks, Musa said that there is a unified Arab stand on these talks. He refused to admit that the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian absence from the talks proves a divergence of Arab interests. He pointed out that Israel has not been cooperative on the settlements and that it has continued its activities in the occupied territories, so Syria refused to participate in the talks for its own reasons and with justification. The Palestinians had their own reasons, and the same goes for the Lebanese.

Libya

IAEA's Blix Holds News Conference in Tripoli

LD0302101292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 3 Feb (JANA)—Dr. Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], affirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah is considered one of the signatory countries to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and that it respects all the covenants and clauses of this agreement in their entirety.

Dr. Blix said in a news conference held yesterday in Tripoli that the IAEA assures the world that the Great Jamahiriyah is complying with all its commitments and that it is prepared to welcome any of the IAEA's inspectors.

He pointed out that the IAEA has over the past years examined and inspected all [of Libya's] nuclear facilities and did not find any treaty violations.

Dr. Blix affirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah has always been in the forefront in providing its help in the inspection and supervision of any nuclear materials that are connected with this agreement.

He said: We respect the Great Jamahiriyah's stand on this issue, and especially the fact that all the officials whom we have met during this visit assured me that the Jamahiriyah is completely ready to welcome and invite any of the IAEA's inspectors to any site.

Dr. Blix praised the results that the Great Jamahiriyah has achieved in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He said the Great Jamahiriyah has used this energy for desalinating sea water and achieved positive results in the technical and economic aspects of these applications. As a result, the IAEA will contribute to transferring technology and technical assistance to all the countries of the world.

Dr. Blix pointed out to the world the necessity of signing the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the system of guarantees followed by the IAEA, and he pointed out the importance of these countries meeting their commitments as stipulated in the agreements, laws, and resolutions in force.

He said that there are a number of states which signed these agreements and which abide by IAEA regulations. We expect more states to abide by these treaties, however, especially considering sensitive regions such as the Mediterranean, the Indian subcontinent, and the Middle East, and we hope that all these regions will abide by the UN Charter and laws.

Dr. Blix emphasized that the world must not submit to one power or two powers or any powers at all. We have to shoulder together, however, the development and prosperity of this world through collective action for the good and prosperity of all mankind. He pointed out in this context that the Western media do not always give the right picture in view of their submission to other powers, and he called for the need for the media to provide an accurate picture and to carry out its work in all faithfulness and loyalty.

Dr. Blix noted the need to work to free the world from nuclear arms and arms of mass destruction. He pointed out in this respect that the Security Council has not yet examined many sensitive issues, including the spread of nuclear and biological weapons. He added that the IAEA hopes the Security Council will study all these issues. [passage omitted]

Political Editor Warns of Attack by Superpowers

LD0302133992 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Feb (JANA)—JANA's political affairs editor has said in a commentary that while the world appreciates the efforts of President Husni Mubarak and

his courageous and successful role in stopping the deterioration of the situation and directing matters toward agreement and a peaceful legal investigation, the world has been extremely surprised at the unveiling of this amazing matter and has expressed astonishment and intense fear that the superpowers in charge of world peace and respect for the UN Charter are considering a surprise attack on a small peaceful country in the same way that Hitler attacked peaceful Poland, which marked the beginning of the end and was a mistake and a foolish thing that resulted in the loss of 30 million people and made the world lose what it took to make the Earth be a real paradise.

The editor added that the reason these countries did not destroy small countries and sacrifice world peace was only due to the fear of the Soviet Union, especially its peace-keeping leaders, namely Khrushchev and Brezhnev. It was thanks to them that small peoples enjoyed their freedom in peace during that period, and not due to the conscience of the Western countries or their international responsibility. That is how Grenada and Panama met their fate in the absence of a Soviet deterrent, and how Cuba survived in the face of the same deterrent.

The editor asked how these countries state in the UN Security Council summit's communique that the end of the cold war has brought hope for the establishment of a more secure, just, and humanitarian world, and that it has succeeded in achieving the aims contained in the Charter. Is this world more secure, or more hypocritical?

Were America and Britain sorry that Libyan children survived the barbaric, tyrannical raid in 1986 caused by a false accusation from which Libya's innocence became clear after dozens of innocent children were killed?

JANA's political editor went on to say it seems that America and Britain know that al-Qadhdhafi has another daughter who is still alive after they had killed his adopted daughter. That is why those countries intend to kill her—to prove their courage and humanity, their adherence to Christ's teachings on the one hand, and the intentions of the UN Charter on the other, and their worthiness to enjoy a permanent seat on the Security Council and also the right of veto. Therefore, the fate of the secure and inattentive small peoples has become dependent solely on the efforts and will of do-gooders and peace lovers like President Husni Mubarak.

The editor concluded his commentary by saying that "we address this message to all small peoples to leave earth for another secure planet, or to be prepared to take their places above earth with a new order of their creation which guarantees collective defense and peace."

Official Notes Need for International Legitimacy

LD0302220192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Nicosia, 3 Feb (JANA)—The secretary of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation has stated that the Great Jamahiriyah condemns all forms of terrorism and that it works within the framework of the international community to eradicate this phenomenon, including its practice by states.

The brother secretary said today in a speech to the methodology committee at the second session of the Nonaligned ministerial meeting that the Great Jamahiriyah is convinced that the subject of the U.S. Pan Am and French UTA flights is a legal matter which has nothing to do with the UN Security Council, even though the Council has issued Resolution 731 on the matter. This resolution, he said, is unjust and violates the UN Charter.

He said that the Great Jamahiriyah has exercised its legal competence ever since this topic erupted—a competence confirmed by pertinent domestic laws and by international agreements—and that the Great Jamahiriyah has shown its willingness to cooperate with the legal parties concerned in order find the truth. [passage omitted]

He said that the Great Jamahiriyah works to entrench the principle of freedom everywhere and to enable the peoples of the earth to shine, to create, and to make use of their national wealth and of international progress in the field of peace in an international atmosphere of security in which all peoples can live in peace in accordance with the true practice of the UN Charter.

He emphasized in his speech that the Great Jamahiriyah hopes that the new world order adopted by the big and small peoples of the earth alike will apply to all equally and will be characterized by fairness and respect for the sovereignty and freedom of countries at the United Nations and of the dignity of their sons.

He emphasized the need for that order to be based on the premises of independence, in which all countries respect rights and duties in ways that will safeguard the principles of international legitimacy and the peoples' right to development, independence, and the protection of their heritage, culture, and national resources so as to achieve democracy and respect for human rights and to eradicate [word indistinct] provocation, hegemony, and the threat of aggression.

Morocco

King Hassan Addresses UN Security Council

LD0102004992 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Speech by King Hassan II to the UN Security Council in New York City on 31 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, God's prayers and peace be upon our Lord, the messenger of God, His family, and His companions.

His excellency the president, their excellencies, his excellency the secretary general:

It was a good initiative from His Excellency Mr. Major, the prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the president of the current session of the Council, to invite members of the Security Council to attend a summit which establishes a happy precedent in the history of the United Nations [UN].

The representation of Council members at this high level gives this exceptional historic event a special significance. It reflects this honorable Council's eagerness to carry out the mission entrusted to it. It reflects the adherence of the two superpowers running it to a spirit of international cooperation. It reflects the bolstering of the UN's mission as seen in the consecration of the foundation of understanding for the good of world peace and saving of mankind from again falling into the clutches of international conflicts, with all the grave consequences and evil repercussions that these always bring. This made the peace of yesteryears nothing more than a pause between two wars. No sooner did one war stop and mankind regain its breath then a second war, more ferocious and fierce, started.

This summit is taking place in favorable conditions. It comes in the wake of historic changes. These changes altered the features of the world's political map and created on earth new conditions that nobody would have expected before the eighth decade of this century.

This summit provides a favorable opportunity to exchange views on the events we have lived through and to collectively think of all the useful and advantageous things that could meet the challenges confronting the human race as we cross the last hurdles of this century and begin the 21st century. [passage omitted]

Mr. President, Morocco belongs to Africa and the Arab and Islamic worlds. This imposes on it the duty to express, on this happy occasion, its visions and positions. It also considers the visions and the positions of the various forces that belong to the same groups.

Therefore, it honors us to convey to you the feelings, observations, and questions sparked by the initiative of the president of the Council to hold this summit.

As far as the UN is concerned, we praise the great role it has played since it was established at the end of World War II to build a new era based on safeguarding peace and providing security and progress for all countries and peoples of the world.

Despite this, the Security Council, which shoulders the tasks of international security and peace, has not always been able to carry out the tasks assigned to it by the UN Charter, particularly Article Six. Most of the time it was paralyzed by the cold war, manifested at the Security Council by the great powers from this or that camp. They resorted to the veto. For the same reason the Security Council could not find satisfactory solutions to regional disputes, which had adverse effects on the international arena.

Mr. President, the earnest desire to consolidate the role of the UN requires every action to strengthen world peace and settle disputes by peaceful means. These actions should tip the balance in favor of dialogue and mediation and the use of the machinery available to the UN to resolve disputes. This will ensure that they are dealt with according to their requirements, thereby enabling the secretary general to use every available means to apply the preventive diplomacy that is an invincible bulwark against the development of disputes into armed conflicts.

The provisions of the Charter on joint security can be characterized by complete respect for international law and international legitimacy. This can be realized only by implementing the principle of equality among states.

Mr. President, since the end of the Cold War the UN's responsibilities have widened and its role has increased. Because of the new international conditions, the international community, as it tried to establish world security, found itself confronted with new problems and challenges. Therefore, all countries look forward, during the sensitive phase that the international situation is going through, to our organization demonstrating additional efficiency.

In this respect, the Kingdom of Morocco emphasizes need to strengthen the organization's apparatus, to improve its operational conditions, and to repair its mechanisms in order to provide it with more efficiency and credibility, as well as to keep it apace with the new facts which will confront it now and in the future.

Within this framework, Morocco can only encourage the reiteration of the will to renew the UN's vitality and to reform its apparatus. Morocco hopes that precise and plausible proposals will be submitted in this regard as soon as possible.

Mr. President, strengthening the organization's apparatus and supporting its role in safeguarding world peace and security require the international community to focus in earnest on the issue of disarmament. We believe that the international accords concluded in the last few years present encouraging features and prospects in this regard. However, this progress by the United Nations in the nuclear field must not blind us to demands for additional joint action to ensure the success of the Geneva negotiations. They seek to remove chemical weapons, to destroy them, and to rid ourselves of the arms of terror that contravene man's civilization and his benign values.

We believe that disarmament will not have true meaning if it does not generate in the North a cooperation mechanism with the South to help it emerge from its backwardness. [passage omitted]

Mr. President, we belong to a continent called Africa, which we love and respect. We sympathize with its problems. We respond to its aspirations, although we do

not receive from the OAU the response that we have hoped for. [passage omitted]

Mr. President, we cannot envision the possibility of setting up a new world order while our Arab world suffers from a tragedy that has lasted nearly half a century—the tragedy of the Palestinian people, who are deprived of their rights, displaced from their land and homeland, threatened in their identity and history, and whose children and sons fall victim before the eyes and ears of the world. If the international community has succeeded in the short or medium term in resolving dangerous political problems, the continuation of the Palestinian problem for this long period of time breaks the record. It casts on the international conscience the responsibility for failing to resolve it, of disregarding the continuation of its evil consequences. The international community should redouble its efforts to settle the Middle East problem once and for all, in accordance with binding Security Council resolutions which concentrate on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and on the rights of the Palestinians, which are incorporated in the concept of human rights, including the right of refugees, and the right of return to their homeland.

Morocco was in the forefront in encouraging dialogue between the parties to the conflict in the Middle East. As a result, it was consistent in its logic and did not hesitate to support the peace initiative. It hopes that the peace process will continue to its conclusion. It hopes that the countries which made it easy for the parties to the conflict to meet will continue to encourage dialogue to arrive at a just solution acceptable to all.

We would like in this respect to concentrate on the special status of the holy city of Jerusalem. We note that the Islamic Conference Organization entrusted us in 1979 with leading the Jerusalem Committee. We have throughout those 12 years always sought to find an equitable and just resolution of the fate of the holy city. We understand that the holy places which this town encompasses have great importance for Muslims, Christians, and Jews. For that reason the Arab and Muslim side has shown in all the meetings which it convened, in particular at the Fes summit in 1982, an openness and a proven spirit of cooperation. It moved forward to meet the opposite party. But, regrettably, this party received the openness and the initiatives heralding the acceptance of peace with political inaction, hard stands, resorting to power, and the fanning of the fire of tension.

Mr. President, a clear development has been registered on the international level in the field of human rights. Morocco salutes this from this rostrum because the concept of human rights is, in our view, an international concept which cannot accept any disagreement or argument. We believe that human rights mean safeguarding human dignity and maintaining the individual and collective rights derived from that noble principle. This is agreed upon by all civilized groups. It is our pleasure to say that the principles declared in the UN Declaration on Human Rights reflect the human concepts and visions which Morocco has believed in for 14 centuries, including political, economic, and social rights. [passage omitted]

Mr. President, the initiative of the chairman of the session of this Council gave it the opportunity to meet for the first time at a summit level and enabled it to carry out a deep and beneficial debate about the issues of the hour. The exchange of views and the debate on the issues in the statement of the chairman which will crown our work today will enable us to notice the progress we have achieved and the size of the tasks which we will later shoulder to face up to the challenges facing us.

If it is not our right to pretend that our meeting has guaranteed the settling of all the issues which our world is facing, it is our right to emphasize that this meeting deserves credit for helping us to hold consultations and exchange views concerning the features to be set up in order to establish the new world order that we seek.

Thank you, Mr. President. May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Sudan

Egyptian Ambassador Denies Arms Supplied to Rebels

NC3101133292 Cairo MENA in English 1157 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 31 (MENA)—Egyptian ambassador to Sudan Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haqq today categorically denied that Egypt is supplying rebels in south Sudan with arms, asserting the Egyptian people's and government's belief that what harms Sudan harms Egypt.

In statements on the occasion of the inauguration of the two-week Egyptian book fair in Khartoum, he said that the Egyptian leadership believes that a peaceful settlement is the best solution for the problem of the south and for realising territorial integrity in Sudan.

On the smuggling of camels to Egypt, he said that Egypt is keen on combating smuggling attempts because they harm the Egyptian economy as they do to the Sudanese economy.

The ambassador described relations between Egypt and Sudan as normal.

The two countries' governments are seeking to realise integration in the various domains, he said, referring to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's directives to push forward Egyptian-Sudanese integration projects.

Bahrain

Amir Receives Iranian Media Official, Delegation

JN2501121092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Manama, 25 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, director of Iranian radio and television, and his delegation, in Manama today. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, attended the meeting.

The amir and the prime minister welcomed the Iranian information delegation's visit to the country, which is part of the cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

His highness the amir also praised the growth and rapprochement in Bahraini-Iranian relations, which reflect the two countries' willingness to expand cooperation to serve the two Muslim peoples. His highness welcomed new prospects for cultural and media cooperation between Bahrain and Iran. His highness the amir also stressed Bahrain's intent to boost its relations with Iran in the interests of the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister and acting foreign minister; Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad; Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, assistant interior minister for immigration and passport affairs; Iranian Ambassador to Bahrain Javad Tork-Abadi; 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah, director of Bahrain's broadcasting corporation; 'Abdallah al-Dhawidi, director of the wireless, frequency, and control office; and Information Ministry Auditor Ibrahim Nur.

After the meeting, the Iranian official said he discussed with the Bahraini amir and prime minister prospects for bolstering media cooperation between Bahrain and Iran. He said his visit came at the invitation of Mr. al-Mu'ayyad to discuss all issues related to existing cooperation between the two countries in various information fields.

He said the meeting provided him with a good chance to exchange views with his highness the amir of Bahrain and his highness the prime minister on relations between the two countries.

He said he conveyed to his highness the amir an invitation from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Iran.

He also conveyed a similar invitation to the prime minister from Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran is looking forward to the visits of the amir and the prime minister, and also to the exchange of visits by officials in the two countries to develop cooperation between them.

Officials Discuss Cooperation

JN2501152892 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1427 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Manama, 25 Jan (WAKH)—Bahrain's Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, and Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, director of Iranian radio and television, held an official round of talks at noon today.

Welcoming Mr. Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Bahrain, the information minister said his visit to Bahrain should help advance bilateral cooperation in line with the wise instructions of Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The information minister noted that the two countries have in common one religion, similar traditions, and a desire to create an atmosphere conducive to cooperation based on good neighborliness and friendship. In this respect, he asserted that the media have a role to play in consolidating bilateral cooperation.

Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised his meeting with his highness the amir and his prime minister and their desire to see relations between Bahrain and Iran grow further.

He indicated that this is the first visit by him to the region, and that it should push forward bilateral relations, considering that the media can help improve relations and deepen friendship between peoples.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he was glad to be visiting Bahrain to familiarize himself with the country's television and radio establishments.

The two sides underscored the importance of increased media cooperation in the two-way traffic of television and radio programs and technical and engineering expertise, as well as exchange official visits.

The session was attended by Iran's Ambassador in Manama Javad Tork-Abadi, senior Ministry of Information officials, AKHBAR-AL- KHALIJ's editor Ahmad Salman Kamal, and AL-AYYAM'S Nabil Ya'qub al-Hummar.

Iran's Radio, TV Chief on 'Crucial' Role

LD2601231992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Voice and Vision Organization of Iran, who is visiting Bahrain at the invitation of that country's minister of information, today met with Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman. During the

meeting, the two sides expressed their willingness to expand, and also their satisfaction with the trend of their relations.

Mr. Hashemi, referring to the elimination of problems which had been created in the path of the expansion of ties, stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's decision to strengthen and expand its ties with neighboring and friendly states. The Head of the Voice and Vision Organization of Iran, while pointing out the role of radio and television in propagating and expanding cultural ties between states, said: The fall of Communism and the disintegration of the former Soviet Union has resulted in the world, especially the world of Islam, to expect us to play a crucial and critical role, and this adds to the gravity of our responsibility. He expressed the hope that under the auspices of the awakening and creation of unity between Muslims, Palestine, and holy Jerusalem will become free.

Bahraini Amir 'Isa Bin-Salman expressed his pleasure at meeting our country's president during the Islamic conference in Senegal, and said: The friendly ties between the two countries are envied by outsiders. He expressed the hope that the frankness and friendship between the two countries will prevent intrigues in their mutual ties.

The Bahraini prime minister, who was also present at the meeting, stressed the need for attention to be paid to cooperation between the two countries in the spheres of radio and television, and expressed satisfaction over the expansion of the two countries' commercial, cultural and political ties.

The head of the Voice and Vision Organization of Iran also discussed cooperation in the spheres of radio and television with the Bahraini information minister.

Officials Agree on Radio-TV Exchange

JN2601210492 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Manama, Jan 26 (GNA) [GULF NEWS AGENCY]—Bahraini Minister of Information Tar al-Mu'ayyad and the head of the Iranian Radio and TV Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, held their second round of official talks here today.

The two sides signed the minutes of the official meeting between Bahrain and Iran. They also agreed on exchanging radio and TV programmes and participating in television festivals in both countries as well as broadcasting special programmes on national occasions of both countries and exchanging technical and training expertise.

The minister of information and the head of the Iranian Radio and TV expressed satisfaction on signing the minutes of the meeting and praised the spirit of cooperation and understanding of officials in charge of radio and tv sectors in both countries.

Rafsanjani invited the minister of information to visit Tehran for further talks.

Present were the Iranian Ambassador to Bahrain Javad Tork-Abadi, the Director of Radio 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah, senior officials at the Information Ministry and the editor in chief of 'AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ' newspaper Salman Kamal and editor in chief of 'AL-AYYAM' Nabil al-Hamar.

[Manama WAKH in Arabic at 1745 GMT on 26 January, in a Manama-datelined report, adds: "Head of Iranian radio and television Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his delegation left Manama for Tehran this evening after a two-day visit to Bahrain." The report adds: "In a statement to WAKH before his departure, the Iranian official praised the outcome of his visit to Bahrain and described the visit as successful, strengthening bilateral ties in various information fields."]

Egyptian President Arrives in Manama 3 Feb

JN0302182992 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1808 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Manama, 3 Feb (WAKH)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in Manama from Addis Ababa this evening on a two-day visit to Bahrain.

He was received upon arrival by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister; Nabil Mustafa Ibrahim, Egyptian ambassador to Bahrain; and a number of senior Bahraini military and civilian officials. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Interior Minister—Iraqi 'Infiltrators' Arrested

NC0402102492 Paris AFP in English 0927 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait City, Feb 4 (AFP) - Kuwait has arrested Iraqi infiltrators planning acts of sabotage in the emirate, Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir said in comments published here Tuesday. Cited by the daily AL-ANBAA, Shaykh Ahmad said security forces had recently arrested "two groups of Iraqis, one of which aimed at committing acts of sabotage while the other was made up of smugglers."

But he gave no details on the number of those seized nor the date of their arrest.

Since the liberation of Kuwait in February 1991, after seven months of Iraqi occupation, the emirate has reported several attempted infiltrations by Iraqis. Kuwait plans to set up in March a "defensive line" along its common border with Iraq, after the drawing up by the

United Nations of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, the minister said. He added that the line would not resemble a wall but rather be made up of electronic detection devices.

Embassy in Vienna Target of 'Terrorist Operation'

LD3101192392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1741 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Vienna, 31 Jan (KUNA)—Austrian State Security Chief Oswald Kessler affirmed today that the Austrian security authorities have arrested three people who were planning to stage a terrorist operation against targets in Austria, particularly Kuwaiti targets.

He added that preliminary investigations of the three men have revealed that a group of terrorists was planning to stage a serious terrorist operation against the Kuwaiti Embassy or another Kuwaiti establishment in Vienna, which Kessler declined to disclose.

The security authorities, he said, arrested members of the gang following the arrest of an Austrian national of Bulgarian origin and a Yugoslav known to the Austrian police and security department to be involved in stealing cars before arresting a Lebanese national, said by some to be a Greek believed to be the chief of the terrorist commandoes.

Kessler affirmed that the security authorities have seized from the three men 2.5 kg of Czechoslovak-made explosives, a British-made gun with a silencer, and another Soviet-made gun. He affirmed that the explosives were sufficient to cause extensive material damage and to kill and wound many people.

Kessler did not rule out the possibility of there being another terrorist element belonging to the gang. He said that the security authorities are continuing their investigations.

The Austrian newspaper "KRONEN" reported today that the security authorities have arrested 10 Arabs of various nationalities who were planning to stage terrorist acts against targets in Austria and that the detainees had arms and explosives in their possession.

The Austrian security authorities said that it is possible that there is a connection between the arrested men and the terrorist arena in the Arab area.

Kessler said the terrorists were planning to carry out their operation during the first week of February and that the Lebanese arrested on 26 January was believed to be the coordinator and organizer of the operation.

He said this man appeared in Austria under the name of Mikhael Economopoulus and was carrying about 20 different identity cards.

The state security chief confirmed that the terrorists helping the Lebanese belong to criminal circles.

He added that the detained Yugoslav was also known to the police before his arrest for involvement in car theft.

He pointed out that it seems that the detained were not the ones entrusted with the execution of the terrorist operation or operations against Kuwaiti establishments in Vienna.

Kessler added that terrorists who come to carry out terrorist operations usually enter Austria immediately before carrying out the operation.

He declined to disclose any information about the organizers and planners of these operations, pointing out that he does not have sufficient information.

He said the weapons and explosives seized with the detainees confirm that the targets were establishments as well as individuals and that in addition to the 2.5 kg of Semtex, the weapons seized from the three detainees were a British-made Sterling 9-mm Parabellum submachine gun with a silencer—with an erased serial number—a 7.62-mm Tokarev Soviet pistol, and 50 rounds of ammunition for the British submachine gun and five rounds for the Soviet pistol.

The state security chief said the reason for the terrorists to choose Vienna for their terrorist operations against Kuwaiti organizations is not clear. However, Kessler did not specify in his news conference the nature of the organizations that were targeted.

He added: Those who are planning terrorism have encountered great pressure in other western European capitals and this might be why they thought of Vienna. Nevertheless, the police are vigilant; they were also keeping an eye on those terrorists, as it was clear today with the arrest of the three members of the commando group.

Director of Public Security Michael Ziege stressed that the police's success in arresting members of the gang is considered to be a normal example of police work because the police managed to remove the danger of a terrorist operation in the preparation stage.

He said the Kuwaiti targets in Vienna have international dimensions and important reflections on the states neighboring Vienna.

State Security Chief Oswald Kessler explained that this terrorist operation, which was uncovered before it occured, is the first that manifested cooperation between terrorists and criminals in a direct and unofficial manner.

He said the terrorists have certainly lost their previous support from Eastern European countries, but they have not lost all their structural and logistical infrastructure. He explained that the terrorists have used criminal channels to smuggle weapons and explosives from or across Hungary and Austria and that these relations are very diverse in this field.

He confirmed that the explosives that were seized from the three arrested terrorists were Semtex. The explosives were ready for use in a matter of seconds. The terrorists

also obtained 50-minute delayed-action detonators. The terrorists were missing only a nine-volt battery for carrying out the operation.

The quantity of the Semtex that was seized was three times that which was used to blow up the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie in 1988.

Oil Output To Reach 1.5 Million BPD by Yearend

LD0102184792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1503 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Paris, 1 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Hamud Al-Ruqbah said in a press interview published here today that Kuwait's oil production will reach around 800 thousand barrels per day [bpd] by July, pointing out that Kuwait will resume its normal production by the end of this year, which amounted to 1.5 million bpd before the invasion.

Dr Al-Ruqbah added in an interview with the monthly magazine 'FRENCH-ARAB AFFAIRS'—"ARABIES"—that Kuwait's oil production is increasing now at the expected rate of 5 to 10 percent, and that other (?wells) will be drilled by the end of July.

Minister Al-Ruqbah said that Kuwait's return to the oil exporting market will be a planned process so as not to affect oil prices, pointing out that OPEC's meeting this month will discuss OPEC's present production ceiling and production quotas for the second quarter of this year.

He pointed out that Kuwait will commit itself to producing its quota, which is 1.5 million bpd, and that it will reach it by the end of this year, making it clear that should OPEC increase the production ceiling, Kuwait will request to have a share in this increase. The Kuwaiti minister said "we have a right to this increase, because we have not exported oil for a whole year, in addition to depriving us from our entire quota for a period exceeding two and one-half years due to the oppressive Iraqi invasion".

Ceremony Hails Arrival of 3 F-18 Aircraft

NC2501193092 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The Air Force today received three F-18 aircraft, the first group of aircraft purchased from the United States to arrive here. The Defense Ministry held a ceremony on the occasion attended by Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim; Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, Army deputy chief of staff; and U.S. Ambassador in Kuwait Edward Gnehm.

Addressing the audience, the defense minister praised the Air Force personnel's efforts in reaching its potential and training its cadres so that it will remain a shield to Kuwait and the gains achieved under its wise leadership, headed by the amir and his loyal heir apparent. The U.S. ambassador also gave a speech praising the Kuwaiti Air Force's role during the war to liberate Kuwait. He said the Kuwaiti youths demonstrated a high degree of efficiency in dealing with the advanced technology in the F-18 bomber.

Al-Khalid said the new aircraft will be an addition to the Kuwaiti Air Force which has managed to absorb this advanced technology.

Asked whether Kuwait will purchase more aircraft, he said the Army is studying all weapons that may be used to increase its defense capabilities.

Oman

French President Mitterrand Arrives 28 Jan

Sultan Delivers Welcome Address

JN2801154092 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Excerpts] His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in the country this afternoon on a three-day visit to the sultanate at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. [passage omitted]

At the airport, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id delivered a welcoming speech. Following is a full recording of the speech:

[Begin Qabus recording] Your excellency the president: We are glad to welcome you and your delegation, and we greatly appreciate this visit and consider it a link between the past relations and the prosperous present Omani-French relations, which date back to the 18th century. The current relations are characterized by fruitful cooperation between our two friendly countries in various areas, and we hope that the brilliant future will also witness joint cooperation to achieve further develop these historic relations, which we are eager to promote in the interests of our two peoples and humanity. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that the consultations and talks we will hold on the international situation and the positive developments, which have taken place the world over the past few years, will be a good step toward bolstering our joint positions on regional and international issues and reaffirming the need to deal with them in the spirit of justice in order to achieve security, stability, and freedom for all states and nations.

As we appreciate France's support for just causes, its call for ending disputes through a peaceful process, and its prominent role in economic cooperation between developed and developing countries, we reiterate our admiration for your personal positions on the overall international issues. This position is evidence of your experience, shrewdness, and wisdom. We hope that your visit will be a landmark in the historic relations between our two peoples, will promote our joint endeavor to realize more positive, fruitful cooperation in the interest

of our two countries, and will bolster ties between them. We wish your excellency and your delegation a happy stay. Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Qabus, Mitterrand Hold Talks

JN2901173492 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Excerpts] At noon today, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand held a session of official talks at al-'Alam Palace in Muscat. [passage omitted]

His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, told the OMANI NEWS AGENCY that the Omani-French talks were fruitful. He said that the talks reflected the existing historic relations between the two friendly countries which date back to the 18th century.

His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al-Sa'id noted that the talks addressed the future of cooperation between the Sultanate and France in the economic, cultural, military, and political fields, in addition to other fields of interest to the future of bilateral cooperation. His highness said that during the Omani-French talks, viewpoints were in agreement on many regional and international issues. He stressed that the French president's visit to the Sultanate will be a new step forward in Omani-French bilateral relations.

Concluding his statement, His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al-Sa'id added that a new concept was introduced to provide for more coordination to reach agreements in various fields of cooperation, and to have coordination between the concerned ministers and provide for the holding of joint meetings concerning bilateral cooperation. He hoped that these relations would be fruitful, and that they might act as a springboard for the success of his majesty's policy, which the world has always praised because it is moderate and adheres to a spirit of moderation when dealing with various countries around the world.

Mitterrand Departs Following 3-Day Visit

JN3001173192 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1712 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Muscat, 30 Jan (WAKH)—French President Francois Mitterrand left Muscat this evening following a three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During his visit, President Mitterrand held talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. Their talks dealt with a number of regional and international issues, as well as bilateral relations and cooperation.

Upon his departure, the French president was seen off by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and a number of senior officials.

Saudi Arabia

Press Commemorates 1st Anniversary of Gulf War

LD1801153192 Riyadh SPA in English 1242 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 18, SPA—The first anniversary of Kuwait's liberation, the current situation in Moscow and the present status of the Middle East peace talks were the three major topics that received editorial treatment in today's newspapers.

Commenting on the first anniversary of the Kuwait's liberation from the yoke of Iraq's vicious occupation, the Jeddah-based 'UKAZ said Saddam Huseyn of Iraq is still governed by his dreams, illusions and irrationality. Saddam, who still owns mass-killing weapons, is endeavouring to obtain nuclear weapons, the daily said. It was believed that Saddam's defeat in Kuwait would persuade him to quit and extend a chance to a new Iraqi leadership capable of dealing with the world and Iraq's neighbours, but Saddam has continued to maneuver and carry out his repressive measures against the innocent Iraqis, it added. The international community should shoulder its responsibility towards Saddam and put an end to his arrogance, the daily said.

On the same topic AL-BILAD, which is also published in Jeddah, said there is no doubt that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz had led the world to drive away the Iraqi assailants from Kuwait. Iraq was not only planning to occupy Kuwait, but also planning to undermine the international peace and stability and the new world order, the paper said. It noted that the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states had unwaveringly shouldered their responsibility towards the Iraqi aggression and collectively worked to confront the menace of Saddam's crazy behaviour. Unfortunately, Iraq's stupid dictator is still following iron-wrist policy and suppressing his people, the daily added.

AL-MADINAH, which is published in Jeddah, commented on developments in the former Soviet Union and warned against polarization of the Islamic republics in the collapsed union. The Zionist quarters of Israel will spare no time and effort to infiltrate into these republics so as to drive away the Arab and Islamic culture, the paper said. Moreover, Israel, exploiting the deteriorating economic situation in the republics of the former Soviet Union, will do its best to persuade the Jews residing there to emigrate to the occupied territories, the daily said. The Arabs and Moslems should be vigilant and evaluate the developments of the situation rationally and reasonaably, the paper added.

On the current Middle East peace talks, the Dammam-based AL-YAWM said the proposals presented by the Arabs at the peace talks were based on the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the

implementation of the Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land in return for peace. But Israel has been maneuvering and escaping serious discussions on the Arab proposals, it added. As Israel is just wasting time and rejecting discussion of the crucial issues, the intervention of the U.S. at intervals, in its capacity as a full partner of the peace process, is something inevitable, the daily said. The principle of land in return for peace has been accepted by the Arab side but turned down by the Israeli side, the daily concluded.

King Fahd Addresses Islamic World League Council

LD2701111992 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud at the opening of the 31st session of the constituent council of the Islamic World League; place and date not given; read by Amir of Mecca Sa'ud Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] This 31st session of your constituent council and the meetings of the Higher International Council of Mosques and the Jurisprudence Academy which will follow it come at a time when the Islamic nation is suffering the results of the Gulf crisis, kindled by the Iraqi regime with its irresponsible behavior and misguided thoughts that charmed those whose souls are weak.

The Iraqi regime persists in its sin with its oppressive practices against the Kurdish brothers and the entire Muslim people of Iraq. With its maladroit action the Iraqi regime wanted to fragment the power of the Islamic nation; however, the return of Kuwait to its people and the failure of the destructive plan restored the consciousness of the Islamic nation, in order that its strength might be consolidated and its course corrected.

The Islamic intifadah, which the occupation forces have failed to contain, is still alive in occupied Palestine, mirroring clearly the determination and resolve of the Palestinians to defend their legitimate national rights. Their participation in the peace talks has also opened a way for giving prominence to the Palestinian stance and its just demands for self-determination on the national soil. This has forced the Zionist forces to undertake various actions to abort the peace talks and uproot the intifadah through killing and terrorism.

The Afghan jihad, which is considered one of the most brilliant forms of Islamic jihad in resisting tyranny and atheism, has achieved, thanks be to God, gains and victory over the forces of injustice and aggression, the scattered remnants of which retreated before the devoted mujahidin. Despite the advanced military machine of the enemy and the concentration of its manpower, the devout combatant forces succeeded, thanks to God's assistance and faith and steadfastness, in destroying the forces of infidelity and atheism. The final victory of the mujahidin will materialize soon, God willing, especially after the collapse of the edifices of communism there.

Honorable brothers: God in his generosity and kindness has granted the Muslims a great gift. The Communist regimes that oppressed man collapsed, the principles of Marx and falsehoods of Lenin receded, the peoples of what used to be called the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe breathed a sigh of relief, and a new era, which Muslims have impatiently been awaiting, has dawned.

The Muslims of the countries that were afflicted by Communist rule have regained their religious freedoms—indeed, the Islamic republics of what used to be known as the USSR have attained their independence. The Islamic way of life has begun to awaken from its slumber. The oppressed Muslims of yesterday have begun to shake off the dust of repression and oppression, work actively to revive their Islamic activities and their Islamic movements and to reestablish their links with the Islamic heritage of their forefathers, from which they had been cut off.

They and other Muslims are looking forward to help and support from their brothers in the Islamic world so that through their cooperation and reunion the meaning of Islamic solidarity in good deeds and piety and in times of hardship and prosperity may be fulfilled, and the Muslims become what God Almighty referred to when He said: "All faithful are brethren."

Dear brothers: The political events and changes that led to the collapse of the Communist regimes, the new political, economic, and intellectual changes that have begun to guide the world toward the creation of a new order, and the intellectual challenges and subversive currents that are directed against the Muslims bear witness to the importance of Islamic solidarity, the call of which emanated from this holy land. By their unity, the Muslims can form a force and a staunch deterrent to repel the intrigues of the enemies, rout their aggressions, and become as one rank in this age that abounds with the forces of blocs and groupings in various areas.

If the strength of the countries resides in their unity and solidarity, their wellbeing and the pride of their peoples reside in abiding by the laws and tenets of Islam and the implementation of its rules in the life of Muslims. This is the only way and the best way to prevent Muslims from falling into the mire of the materialistic civilization that has deprived nations of their values and humane aspects. [passage omitted]

Judge Dismissed for Opposing U.S. Presence

PM3101142992 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive report": "Dismissal of Saudi Opposition Judge"]

[Excerpt] London—AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that the Saudi Government has ordered the dismissal of religious scholar Shaykh 'Aud-al-Muhsin al-'Ubaykan, president of Shari'a Court 'A' in Riyadh. The dismissal

decision was made by the higher judicial council headed by Justice Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Jubayr.

According to Saudi sources, Shaykh al-'Ubaykan was dismissed because of his opposition to the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia and his criticism, in mosque sermons, of some aspects of the government's policy. Shaykh al-'Ubaykan had been a judge and a preacher for 21 years. [passage omitted]

Public Security Director on 'Sick-Minded People'

PM3101165292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jan 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Saudi Public Security Director Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Severe Punishment for Anyone Encroaching on Society's Rights"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—General 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman Al al-Shaykh, director of Saudi public security, has stressed that the security authorities will not be lax in applying the severest punishments against anyone encroaching on society's rights. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the Gulf crisis caused the emergence of what he called groups of sick-minded people.

He emphasized that the Saudi security authorities will show mercy to such people and will cure their weakness through the necessary resolve and steadfastness. He described the security situation in Saudi Arabia as one of unparalleled security, apart from isolated incidents.

Gen. Al al-Shaykh said: There are not many major crimes that can affect the march of building and development. All reports confirm a reduction in crime rates. He added that security reports confirmed the absence of particular affiliations or tendencies among criminals.

With regard to the recent crimes perpetrated by some Saudis, the public security director emphasized that they were isolated incidents such as those which occur in all societies.

He said that workers coming to Saudi Arabia do not represent a security concern for the authorities, that they have many positive aspects, and that only a few of them commit offenses. [passage omitted]

He said: With regard to the precautions we have taken, it is no secret that in this country we live in the spirit of a single family, each member of which feels that any negligence or lack of cooperation on his part would harm the family. This is why we always find that they cooperate with the security organs, and we have much evidence of this. Also, everyone considers themselves security men. The crisis has increased their confidence in their leadership and their love of their land, which is why you can see them keeping a watchful eye on this blessing and this security which God has granted to this beloved homeland. [passage omitted]

Asked whether there was any security concern worrying the security authorities, Gen. Al al-Shaykh said: Crime exists in every society. It is as old as mankind and its perpetrators do not belong to any particular group or tendency. If some Saudis have committed certain actions, it proves that our society is like the other human communities, in which we find the good—which constitutes the broad base—and only some who commit isolated actions. And we are dealing with these with the necessary resolve and steadfastness. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Labor Minister Leaves for Iran 3 Feb

JN0302112192 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Feb (WAKH)—Sayf 'Ali al-Jarwan, minister of labor and social affairs in the United Arab Emirates, today left for Tehran on an official visit that will last several days at the invitation of Hoseyn Kamali, Iranian minister of labor and social affairs.

Upon departure, al-Jarwan hoped that the visit would accomplish its aims and reinforce bilateral relations in the labor and social fields. He said that this visit is an opportunity to acquaint himself with the various activities of the Iranian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, especially in the field of care for the handicapped and vocational health care.

Republic of Yemen

French Ambassador Summoned Over Habash Affair

JN0102125592 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry this morning summoned the French ambassador in Sanaa and informed him of its denunciation of the measures adopted against Palestinian leader George Habash. The ministry expressed concern over the effect of this behavior on Arab-French relations. It requested that Dr. George Habash quickly be allowed to leave France and that his safety is ensured.

For his part, the French ambassador said that what has happened is outside the control of the French Government. The ambassador added that the Palestinian leader can leave France if his health so permits.

Parliamentary Speaker Cited on Relations With Iran

PM0302112092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jan 92 p 2

[Interview with Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, by Lutfi Shatarah in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] The unity agreement between the two parts of Yemen specified an extension of two-and-a-half years for the transition period. Are there any procedural measures to implement the clauses of that agreement and to end the transition period this year?

[Nu'man] The period will end on the specified date and the elections will be held on the specified date. The steps being taken—such as the electoral law, the administrative division law, and the important law that we completed a few days ago, namely, the civil [statistics] register law, as well as the laws being completed by the house—are a step in that direction. Political parties and organizations have been informed of the need to hold a roundtable meeting to formulate a so-called "honor charter." This charter will be completed within the framework of defining orientations to realize national consensus on the issue of democracy and reform, to complete the transition period, and to hold elections at the end of the transition period. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Yemen is moving toward broad relations with Iran. What is your assessment of these relations in the light of Iranian officials' visits to Yemen?

[Nu'man] During the Iranian officials' visits to Yemen there was an exchange of views on the region's conditions and its peoples' interests. In my view, the visits were cordial, especially since Iran is a Muslim and neighboring state, and it is natural for it to have relations with its neighbors. I believe that cordial relations serve the nation.

[Shatarah] What is the most substantial Iranian aid to Yemen? Are there any joint enterprises between the two countries?

[Nu'man] So far there are no enterprises or aid in the usual sense. But there is a joint economic committee between our two countries. It met a few days ago in Tehran. It is headed by the countries' planning ministers. It discusses economic and technical cooperation between the two countries in the various economic fields. We hope that there will be cooperation in the interests of both countries' peoples. Three years ago Iran refined its crude oil at the Aden refinery, but that stopped. Attempts are now being made to exploit the Aden refineries, which play an active and good role in that field. The way is open to everyone to benefit exploit Aden's refining capability.

[Shatarah] Is there a strategic dimension to Yemeni-Iranian rapprochement in terms of the Iranian concept of exporting of the revolution?

[Nu'man] I do not believe so. Nor do I believe that the Iranians' present slogan is to export the revolution. Yemen's relations with Iran are not based on anything of that kind. They are maintained within their natural framework, on the basis of respect for the peoples' interests, and especially the Yemeni and Iranian peoples' interests, and they will not be directed against any third party, either by us Yemenis or by the Iranians.

[Shatarah] Is military aid included in relations between Yemen and Iran, and will Iran finance deals to purchase arms for Yemen?

[Nu'man] As far as Yemen is concerned, I do not believe that there is anything of that kind. [passage omitted]

Saddam Chairs Ba'th Regional Command Meeting

JN0202202492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today chaired a meeting of the Regional Command.

The meeting was attended by presidential court chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi.

Saddam Wishes King Husayn Speedy Recovery

JN0202114092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on his admittance to the hospital. In his cable, his excellency expressed heartfelt wishes for his speedy recovery.

The cable reads: I have been informed that you were admitted to the hospital. I am pleased that you are in good health, God be praised. My heartfelt wishes to you for a speedy recovery coupled with my sincerest wishes for success and a long life. Peace be upon you.

Saddam's Son Offers Smugglers Planes for Iran

NC0302171192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The small tyrant 'Udayy, son of the tyrant Saddam, has offered smugglers operating between Iran and Iraq parts of Iraqi warplanes to smuggle to Iran for $20 million.

The opposition newspaper SAWT AL-SHA'B has confirmed that 'Udayy contacted Kurdish traders through middlemen and offered to make a deal with them to [word indistinct] engines, other equipment, and spare parts from MiG, Sukhoy, and Mirage aircraft from the remnants of the Iraqi Air Force. The same newspaper added that 'Udayy's middlemen told the Kurdish traders that 'Udayy will guarantee delivery of the shipment to [placename indistinct], which is under the control of the Kurdish Front, and that they [words indistinct] the smuggling order to Iran.

It is worthy noting that Iran is holding more than 100 Iraqi warplanes which the defeated regime smuggled to Iran during the Gulf war.

Attempted Assassination of Prince Bandar Noted

JN0302185892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1520 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Untitled "editorial" by Hisham 'Awdah carried within the "Radio Newspaper" program]

[Text] Gentlemen: Bandar Bin-Sultan, Fahd's ambassador to Washington, is neither the first, nor will he be the last, of the targeted officials of the Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] regime. We know that Bandar Bin-Sultan played the role of godfather through his contacts and meetings with the parties to the aggression against Iraq, and prepared many meetings between the pillars of his regime and the Zionists. We further know that our people in Najd and Hejaz will not remain silent for long on the treason publicly committed by Fahd and his family, not only against our people in Najd and Hejaz, but also against the Arab and Islamic nation.

Media sources have recently emphasized that Bandar Bin-Sultan was a target of an assassination attempt in the United States, that he is not seen in public, and that his movements are shrouded in high secrecy.

The Saudi regime will not be able to continue misleading the masses of our Arab nation. Our people in Najd and Hejaz, especially intellectuals and young men of religion, have begun to raise their voices loud, and to organize their ranks against all methods of treason, conspiracy, and corruption practiced by the regime against land, people, resources, and sanctities. Prisons are full of opposition elements, and this is a fact reported even by Western media. The entire regime is now targeted; it has to pay the national and pan-Arab dues of its treasonous anti-Arab position, when it leased its territory, desecrated sanctities, and brought the armies of the sinful aggression states to attack Iraq, its people, the pillars of its upsurge, and its cultural pan-Arab project.

Our kinfolk in Najd and Hejaz, who saw with their own eyes, and tangibly sensed the pictures of treason and contempt perpetrated by Fahd, his family, and his agent regime, are able to overthrow him by unifying their ranks and positions and defending the land, the wealth, the sanctities, and the sovereignty. Bandar Bin-Sultan will not be the first or last target of the revolution and blessed uprising of our people there. In fact, the entire regime will be their target, until Najd and Hejaz are freed from domination, humiliation, enslavement, and subservience. These are dues to be paid by all traitors and plotters, who sold themselves, their countries, and the interests of their people cheaply to the colonial foreign enemy, and who, in all lowliness and baseness, stood against their nation, its development, and its cultural and human project.

Officials Detail Damage Caused by Desert Storm

Embargo Reportedly Kills 31,033 Children

JN0302093992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0746 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—Health Ministry Under Secretary Dr. Shawqi Murqus has revealed that 31,033 Iraqi children under five have died as a result of the food and medicine embargo on Iraq.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, he said that 30 percent of the children who died were newborns. He noted that the shortage of medicine

and medical supplies, the environmental situation, as well as the lack of milk and food have had a direct impact on the lives of children, especially infants.

The Health Ministry under secretary added: The environmental situation resulting from the 30-state aggression has greatly increased the incidence of diseases. He noted that the incidence of typhoid, paratyphoid, and amoebic and bacillar dysentery had increased eightfold, while viral hepatitis A and B had increased twelvefold.

He also stated that viral hepatitis B cases had increased due to the shortage of laboratory materials used for testing blood before blood transfusions.

The Health Ministry under secretary explained that the damage to drinking water purification plants and to sewage treatment plants had resulted in the spread of cholera. He said that 1,217 cases of cholera have been recorded and that scores of people have died.

He revealed that the aggression forces had committed numerous crimes against Iraqi citizens. The enemies withheld the anesthetic—nitrous oxide—used in Caesarean sections from Iraqi hospitals. This resulted in the loss of the lives of a number of mothers and children due to performing such operations without anesthesia.

Dr. Shawqi Murqus also said that the enemies had violated the most basic principles of human rights by withholding anesthesia for tooth extractions, and he emphasized that the embargo on medicines is unjustified.

Finance Minister on Cost of Damage

JN0102160092 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 1, INA—The Finance Ministry said that 200 of its departments throughout Iraq were damaged or destroyed during the 30-states aggression on Iraq. Cost of the damages were estimated at 50 million dinars.

Finance Ministr Majid 'Abd Ja'far said cost of the total damages inflicted on the ministry buildings during the aggression and the acts of sabotage that took place afterwards was 241 millions dinars.

The minister stated that scores of the branches of the al-Rafidayn, al-Rashid, Industrial and Agricultural Banks and the Iraqi Insurance Company in several Iraqi southern and northern provinces were attacked and damaged.

Education Minister on Damaged Schools

JN0202144892 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 2, INA—Minister of Education Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz said the US-led aggression against Iraq and the acts of sabotage that followed have resulted in the damage of some 4,864 educational institutions and departments.

Speaking on Iraqi TV program "The File" on Friday, the minister said the facilities damaged include kindergartens, primary, intermediate, secondary and vocational schools as well as a large number of education departments.

Mr Al-Bazzaz added that during acts of sabotage, schools' furniture had been looted and student documents have been burnt.

The southern port city of al-Basrah had the lion's share of destruction where a large number of schools were damaged and some 90,000 desks burnt, the minister said.

He added that according to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Education the US-led aggression and acts of sabotage have resulted in a total damage of some 250 thousand desks, saying that at pre-war prices the cost of damage is estimated at 215 million Iraqi dinars, but because of the economic embargo clamped on the country and present price levels, the cost of damage might total up to one billion dinars.

In the Kurdish Autonomous Region alone, the allied aggression and the ensuing acts of sabotage caused of some 930 schools, the minister said. [sentence as received]

He elaborated that after the war, the staff of the Ministry of Education launched a nation-wide reconstruction campaign to repair damage sustained by the educational facilities.

Despite all difficulties created by the imposition of the economic blockade, the ministry's staff managed to repair damaged schools, the minister concluded.

Citizens Can Sue Bush for War Reparations

JN0302111792 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 31 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki has stated that all Iraqi citizens whose private property and houses were damaged by the treacherous bombardment of the forces of the 30-state aggression against Iraq can directly prosecute criminal of the age Bush and the U.S. Administration to obtain compensation for the material and moral losses they sustained. Prominent lawyers will represent them.

Ties With Azerbaijan Upgraded to Embassy Level

JN0202153692 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 2, INA—The Foreign Ministry appointed Iraq's Ambassador in Moscow Ghafil Jasim [Husayn] as non-resident ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Independent States by which the Iraqi Government has recognized.

A Foreign Ministry source said that the Governments of Iraq and Azerbaijan decided to upgrade the level of diplomatic representation between the two states to embassy level.

Mosad, Syrian Intelligence in 'Secret' Talks

TA0402082392 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Feb 92 p 1

[Report from New York by Shmu'el Segev]

[Excerpt] Despite President al-Asad's refusal to participate in the multilateral peace conference in Moscow, Israeli and Syrian intelligence agents have been holding informal contacts to break the ground for an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement, which would initially be based on a partial Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Reliable diplomatic sources in the United States have disclosed that the assessment prevailing on the eve of the Madrid conference was that Israel and Syria, due purely to domestic reasons, would have to pursue an intransigent position in public. That is why Israel and Syria launched a process similar to the preparatory talks Israel's Mosad and the Egyptian intelligence services held prior to the meetings between Hasan al-Tuhami and Moshe Dayan in Morocco and President al-Sadat's subsequent visit to Jerusalem.

The secret contacts began after the first bilateral meeting in Washington. The third round of the bilateral talks is scheduled to begin in Washington in mid-February, but the sources noted it should not be expected to produce a breakthrough either, seeing that the public negotiations are designed to camouflage the secret talks. The public talks will gather momentum only after an agreement has been reached on the "principles" of the arrangement on the Golan Heights and after Israel secretly promises to withdraw from the Golan Heights in the future. [passage omitted]

Shamir Briefs Knesset Committee on Peace Talks

TA0402134592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Feb 92 p A4

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zrahyah]

[Excerpt] "I respect the Lubavitcher rabbi, but I think that he is completely wrong on this matter. To say that we are ready to hand territory over to strangers is a claim that totally negates reality. The autonomy negotiations will not lead to the return of territory or any other such nonsense." This was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's reaction yesterday to statements made by the Lubavitcher rabbi, leader of the Habad movement, criticizing the autonomy negotiations.

The prime minister was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, after Knesset Member [MK] Ge'ula Kohen (Tehiya) quoted the rabbi. Shamir stressed that as long as the Likud heads the government, there will be no Palestinian state, adding that the Lubavitcher rabbi and MK Kohen can remain calm.

Shamir told MK Kohen that "even if you ask the question 20 times," the Palestinian diaspora and East Jerusalem residents will not be represented at the peace talks. Shamir asserted that "Jerusalem will forever remain the capital of Israel and will not be an issue for negotiations between us and the Arab countries."

Commenting on the Washington peace talks, Shamir said that in the negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Israel intends to sign a peace agreement with Jordan, terminate the state of war between the two countries, establish diplomatic relations, and cooperate on water, energy, and economic issues.

Shamir noted that the Israeli delegation will propose to the Jordanian-Palestinian team to implement early arrangements, such as the opening of borders and interim arrangements, based on the Camp David accords. Israel has not yet presented its proposed model for interim arrangements, however, because the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has still not accepted the Camp David accords and has demanded self-determination for the Palestinians and a halt to settlement activity.

As for the talks with the Syrians, Shamir said that the Syrian delegation has been given very limited room for maneuver. The Israeli delegation proposed to the Syrians that the two countries issue a joint announcement on the need for peace and on mutual recognition, as well as a declaration on an end to violence. The Syrian officials replied that they would not sign a separate agreement with Israel unless all the other delegations signed agreements first.

Shamir painted a bleak picture of the living conditions of the Jews in the former Soviet Union. He said that their situation is growing increasingly worse and that the dangers facing them are mounting in light of the growing instability. He pointed out that in all the republics belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States there is the potential for anti-Semitism, noting that there have been real anti-Semitic manifestations in several republics. The Jews, therefore, are in real danger.

Shamir confirmed that only 6,237 Jews immigrated to Israel in January. He said that 348,000 Jews have arrived since the immigration wave began at the end of 1989. Today there are 30,000 Jews in Russia holding exit visas for Israel. Shamir estimated that they will leave for Israel in the next few months. Shamir admitted that the decline in the scope of immigration stems from reports about absorption problems sent by relatives in Israel. [passage omitted]

On Loan Guarantees

TA0302162192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the United States is inclined to give Israel the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption. He also expressed the belief that the negotiations with the United States on that issue would be concluded soon. The money raised by Israel

with the aid of the guarantees would be used solely for immigrant absorption and would not be invested beyond the Green Line, the prime minister said. Shamir was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Eyal Lavi reports:

We have always received past assistance with a promise that the money would not be invested beyond the Green Line, Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. The prime minister said: I recognize every country's right to decide what will be done with the money it gives, but any attempt to dictate foreign policy is inconceivable. The money raised through the loan guarantees will be invested solely in immigrant absorption and not beyond the Green Line, he averred. This has already been promised to the Americans, he added.

[Begin Shamir recording] If someone were to tell me: Since I am helping you, do not do certain things, and if those things had nothing whatsoever to do with the money, then that would be a political dictate. We have never received any political dictates from the United States. [end recording]

Shamir explained that so far, only one meeting has been held to negotiate the loan guarantees from the United States. We, at any rate, will not state in advance what is acceptable to us—not while negotiations are still under way.

[Begin Shamir recording] I think the United States knows exactly what can and what cannot be demanded of the Israeli Government. While the issue is under negotiation, I will not set a series of conditions that we can or cannot accept. [end recording]

Knesset Downs No-Confidence Motions on Guarantees

TA0302164992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The Knesset rejected two no-confidence motions in the government presented by the Moledet and Tehiya factions, which accused it of caving in to a U.S. diktat on the issue of the immigrant loan guarantees. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the motion was rejected by 22 to eight, with six abstentions. The Labor Party gave its members freedom to vote as they wished.

Shoval: Guarantees Would Create U.S. Jobs

TA3101185992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1805 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] There will be no final answer on the issue of the loan guarantees before the end of February or early March, and Israel should still expect difficult negotiations with the United States. These remark were made today by Zalman Shoval, our ambassador to Washington. Ambassador Shoval today conferred in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen spoke to Ambassador Shoval after his meeting with the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Shoval] I believe there is a chance that we will get the loan guarantees, but they are certainly not in our pockets yet. There are several issues, unrelated to the issue of settlements, which will have to be settled.

[Ronen] Do you mean economic reforms?

[Shoval] The issue of economic reforms is one example; there may be other issues. Also, there is our policy and our needs: our settlement needs, our security needs, and so on. We will see whether we will be able to find a formula acceptable to both countries.

[Ronen] Does the current atmosphere in the United States—where there is not much sympathy for allocating the guarantees even in Congress and where public opinion polls indicate that 75 percent of the U.S. public opposes giving the guarantees—make our struggle difficult?

[Shoval] The struggle is certainly difficult. There are matters that work for us, however, as well. Among other things, there is this one example—which the U.S. public is not yet aware of—that granting us the guarantees will create many new jobs in the United States. This is a fact they did not know before. Those who learn of it now in Congress are amazed by this because, in fact, this proves that the $10 billion in guarantees will add between $10 to $15 billion in U.S. exports to Israel within the next four to six years. This will create many new jobs in the United States. This is very important for many congressmen. [end recording]

Plan for Managing West Bank Proposed to Jordan

TA0202110392 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Feb 92 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Israel has proposed to Jordan setting up two joint committees to manage the West Bank: one on legislation and another on economic matters. Israel has also offered the Palestinians establishment of joint committees for a gradual transfer of authority from the Civil Administration to the Palestinians. Our correspondent has learned these facts from Palestinian sources in the territories.

In a way, the proposals echo old Israeli proposals to Jordan to establish a kind of a condominium in the territories. The legislation committee is designed to block the Palestinian demand to set up a 180-member legislative council. According to the sources, Jordan has not responded to the Israeli proposals, although it has expressed willingness to cooperate on matters pertaining to environmental issues and water problems.

The proposals were raised before the Jordanians on the fringe of the Washington talks. The proposal for joint committees with the Palestinians is included in a document they received from Israel.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Comments on Negotiations

TA3101100392 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
31 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Dan Avidan in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] [Avidan] Why did the Palestinian delegation not take part in the multilateral talks?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The reasons are totally clear. The Palestinian representatives did not have the same status as the other parties. They will not take part in conferences in the future, either, if our representatives are not fully equal to the other delegations. We have the full right to determine who will represent us and who will take part on our behalf in the bodies of the conference at all levels. This conference is of a regional and international nature, and that is why representatives of the Palestinian people from the territories and the diaspora must take part in it. They will be present in the next stages. The Madrid conference formula suits the bilateral negotiations only. The multilateral negotiations require a formula for the participation of the Palestinians—a formula that includes the entire Palestinian people, both inside and outside the territories.

[Avidan] Are you satisfied with the U.S.-Russian statement that Palestinian representatives from the diaspora will be included in the next stages of the multilateral negotiations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] It is a step forward, but it does not satisfy us.

[Avidan] What other demands are you making so that you can take part in the next stages of the multilateral negotiations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] That we should be allowed to decide for ourselves who will represent us in the next stages.

[Avidan] Can you elaborate?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We did not present a list of our (potential) representatives in the committees to anybody. Our representatives will come to the negotiations at the right time, and their status will suit the nature of the issues discussed by the committees.

[Avidan] Is the inclusion of representatives from East Jerusalem an obstacle still hindering your participation in the discussions of the committees?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The question of Jerusalem is part of the general question of Palestinian representation.

[Avidan] Is the question of Palestinian participation in all the committees a problem now?

['Abd-Rabbuh] No. We have been assured by the two cosponsors that we have the right to participate in all the committees. That was agreed upon at the very beginning of the process.

[Avidan] In other words, you will be allowed to include representatives from the diaspora in all the committees.

['Abd-Rabbuh] In principle, we have the right to do that. As for the question of who will represent us and how, that will depend on the issues discussed by the committees.

[Avidan] Do you think the Palestinian delegation will take part in the next stage of the multilateral negotiations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Yes, mainly because of the commitment of the Arab countries participating in the multilateral negotiations that steps related to normalization (of the relations with Israel) cannot be made before progress has been made in the bilateral negotiations.

[Avidan] Were you not bothered that the Arabs took part in the negotiations in Moscow, despite the fact that the Palestinians boycotted them?

['Abd-Rabbuh] No, that was not the case at all. The Arab delegations know full well that the absence of the Palestinians, Syria, and Lebanon makes it harder for any Arab party to discuss matters of substance.

[Avidan] If Israel continues to object to the inclusion of Palestinians from the diaspora in the multilateral negotiations, could all the Arab delegations boycott them as a token of solidarity with the Palestinians?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe all the Arab delegations adopted the joint position that there can be no progress in the multilateral negotiations if two basic conditions are not met: a solution to the question of Palestinian representation and substantive progress in the bilateral talks.

[Avidan] Israeli public opinion is not yet convinced that the PLO is ready for coexistence.

['Abd-Rabbuh] The matter is far more complex than that. The Palestinian position is becoming more moderate, while Israel's positions are becoming more radical. That is the big problem: the widening gap between the Palestinian position regarding a just peace and our willingness for reconciliation and normalization between the two peoples based on equality, on one hand, and the position of the leading force in Israel, which persists in rejecting and denying the basic rights of the Palestinian people and the fact that it has a national territory and is entitled to determine its future in it, on the other.

[Avidan] Are the Palestinians prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel? If so, under what terms?

['Abd-Rabbuh] On the day Israel recognizes our right to self-determination on our land and withdraws from the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem—on that day the representatives of the Palestinian people will be prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel and provide the international guarantees to that effect.

[Avidan] Including full normalization?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We are the ones who have been calling for the normalization of relations. The first step toward normalization is to stop the oppression of our people.

[Avidan] If a Palestinian state is established in the territories, will you agree to demilitarize it?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We will leave that entire issue to the negotiations. But, we do not have either nuclear or chemical weapons....

[Avidan] Are you willing to accept a solution of the refugee problem that Israel can live with?

['Abd-Rabbuh] If we agreed to a solution of the refugee problem that is acceptable to the Israeli leadership, we would simply have to disappear from the face of the earth.

IDF Eases Engagement Rules on Opening Fire

TA0202094592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Feb 92 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, has endorsed the recommendations of Central Command Commander Dani Yatom to expand the rules of engagement on the West Bank to improve IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' ability to fire on terrorists and wanted persons. Some of Major General Yatom's recommendations have already been implemented. Army sources said that another part of the recommendations, pertaining to specific operational aspects, are still being examined by the General Staff and the legal system.

Army sources stated that the new move aims to reduce risks to IDF troops as much as possible. According to the Army sources, Gen. Yatom believes there should be no restricting regulations that might place IDF soldiers in situations in which they jeopardize their own lives. IDF sources said that "it is inconceivable for an armed terrorist to be able to open fire at an IDF soldier, while the soldier may not open fire despite instant identification without stopping a few minutes to peruse the book on rules of engagement." [passage omitted]

New Chief Intelligence Officer Appointed

TA0202100092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Feb 92 p 5

[Text] Last Friday, Colonel Doron Tamir was appointed chief intelligence officer and promoted to brigadier general. He will replace Brigadier General Oren Shahor.

Tamir, born in Rehovot in 1950, joined the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Armored Corps in 1968. In 1971, he was reassigned to the Intelligence Corps in which he served in field, research, and training jobs. During the Yom Kippur War, he served as an intelligence officer in the Central Command. After the war, he was intelligence officer of the Golani Brigade, which was in the Syrian enclave in the Golan Heights.

Tamir participated in the Lebanon war as the intelligence officer of the Armored Battalion. His most recent postings include: Central Command intelligence officer; Intelligence Center commander; and deputy head of the Research Department at the Intelligence Branch.

Gen. Doron Tamir is a graduate of a brigade commanders course and a command and staff course and holds a B.A. in general history from Tel Aviv University. He is married and has four children.

Police Ask Trial of Ex-Head of Arrow Project

TA0402054092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Police are recommending that the former head of the Army's Arrow missile project, Dan Raviv, stand trial. Police have concluded their investigation and will hand over their findings to the state attorney this week.

Raviv is suspected of receiving tens of thousands of dollars from a company abroad in exchange for contracts he gave the company in the Arrow project. Raviv told police the money he had received was a consulting fee.

MAPAM, CRM, Shinuy To Run on Single List

TA0302160092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] MAPAM [United Workers Party] will compete in the next elections on a joint leftist list with the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] and Shinuy. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the MAPAM convention voted 73 percent in favor and 27 percent against the proposal to run on a joint list with the two other parties.

Abu-Jabir Assesses Multilateral Talks

TA0302134692 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
31 Jan 92 pp 1, 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir by Da'ud Kuttab; place and date not given]

[Text] [Kuttab] What is the Jordanian side's assessment of the Moscow talks?

[Abu-Jabir] We believe that what happened in the Russian capital is a step in the right direction, but not 100 percent as we would have liked it to be, particularly with regard to our Palestinian brothers, because they had a strong desire to attend and participate in this phase. We tried as much as possible to support this effort. We believe that their participation in the coming phase, on the basis of Baker's and Kozyrov's promises, is an obligation. Of course, we now have time until the end of April to ensure the participation of the Palestinians in all the committees, not only in the refugees and economic cooperation committees. Furthermore, our proposal and that of other Arab states on forming a working group to deal with the issue of Jerusalem is a significant achievement.

[Kuttab] Are you satisfied with the outcome, bearing in mind that Jordan bore a heavy burden?

[Abu-Jabir] We assumed the burden of the Arab presence. At the same time, we allowed the peace process to proceed without cutting this delicate thread. We also managed to refute Israeli allegations that the Arabs do not want peace and will not attend. The question that should be posed is this: What would have happened if Jordan had failed to attend this conference? Attendance provided the possibility of a broader Palestinian participation.

[Kuttab] Are you happy with the Palestinian position?

[Abu-Jabir] What makes the Palestinians happy, satisfies us also. We did our utmost in intensive and continual coordination with them. The upshot is that the outcome satisfied the Palestinians. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh conveyed a message to me personally from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, in which he expressed gratitude for Jordan's stance in Moscow. As I said, what makes the Palestinians happy, satisfies us also. The Palestinians, the Jordanians, and the rest of the Arabs have one objective, that is ending Israeli occupation of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, through respect for international legitimacy.

[Kuttab] What do you think of inter-Arab coordination in Moscow?

[Abu-Jabir] The horizons of Arab coordination have improved, particularly during the recent meeting at the Egyptian ambassador's home, attended by the heads of the Arab delegations. We reached agreement on creating a better mechanism for coordination than existed in the past. I believe that Arab coordination will enter a new and more effective phase, especially with regard to the peace process.

[Kuttab] How do you assess the results of the meetings of the working groups, all of which Jordan participated in?

[Abu-Jabir] The discussions were carried out, and the decisions were made as we had planned, in coordination with the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the international parties. Agreement was reached on the venue and date for holding the initial meetings. They will start with international seminars. The important thing is that the Arab parties and Europe affirmed the centrality of the Palestinian problem, and that the main task of the multilateral talks is supporting the bilateral negotiations which seek to achieve a resolution of the political aspect of the problem. This is very reassuring and we are satisfied, because this is Jordan's viewpoint which basically affirms the centrality of the Palestinian problem.

[Kuttab] What about Jerusalem, both with regard to representation and as an issue?

[Abu-Jabir] As I said, Jordan called for the formation of a working group on the holy city. We also proposed that in the event such a group is not formed, at least an international seminar should be devoted to the question of Jerusalem in all its aspects.

[Kuttab] Where are we going now? Has the peace process advanced or has it been set back?

[Abu-Jabir] As far as we are concerned, we have to maintain sovereignty and enhance coordination, firstly on the Jordanian-Palestinian level, which is indispensable, and then on the Arab level. The positions and efforts of the Arab brothers were good. An effective mechanism for coordination was created. On the international level, we should intensify international contacts, particularly with the cosponsors, the United States and Russia, Japan, Canada, and Europe. Now we can deal with all these parties through the mechanism of the multilateral peace conference. We must exploit this as well as the working groups to the benefit of the Palestinian cause, which we succeeded in presenting. We raised important issues at the Moscow rostrum—including the issues of Palestinian representation, the Palestinian cause, the question of Jerusalem, and our perception of peace. This is an important rostrum that has been made available to the Palestinian cause. We should exploit it and the international presence which has made this possible.

Minister Calls for Expanded Ties With Iran

LD0302141692 Tehran IRNA in English 1149 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 3, IRNA—A senior Lebanese official here Sunday called for further consolidation and expansion of Tehran-Beirut relations especially in economic fields.

The remark was made by the Lebanese Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil in an interview with IRNA here on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

"Such a cooperation could materialize through conclusion of bilateral agreements and contracts," the minister added.

He stressed that the Lebanese Government gives priority to liberation of the occupied territories from the the Zionist regime.

"Resistance against the Zionist regime is the legal right of the Lebanese people which has been legitimated by international regulations and the U.N. Charter," Khalil noted.

To this end, he added, the Lebanese Government, through implementation of international resolutions especially Security Council Resolution 425, was trying to put an end to the occupation and restore sovereignty of the country.

On economic bottlenecks in Lebanon in the post-war era, he said his country alone cannot produce a solution to the complicated economic problems without the assistance of friendly countries such as Iran.

The minister noted that one of the main achievements of the Islamic Revolution of Iran was its stand vis-a-vis the Zionist regime.

In the post-revolution era under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, a drastic change took place in the process of Iran's relations with the Arab world which further intensified anti-Zionist stand, the Lebanese official said.

He stressed that expansion of ties between Iran and Arab countries, especialy Tehran-Beirut ties, is natural and inevitable.

Karami—Defense Cuts Not Harming Army Performance

NC0102100792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami today met Defense Minister Michel al-Murr and the army commander, General Emile Lahhud, in his office, when they discussed the Defense Ministry budget. Karami said that the meeting was linked with the government's decision to adopt austerity measures, adding that the Defense Ministry's budget had been reduced in a way that does not harm the Army's performance or morale.

Lahhud Tours South Areas; Amal Praises Deployment

NC2901101792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud visited the south yesterday, accompanied by the region's commander, Staff Brigadier General Qasim Siblini, and 10th Brigade Commander Brig. Gen. Antoine Siwwan. Gen. Lahhud toured the area in which the brigade had deployed. He also visited the Tyre command center and the 11th Brigade headquarters in al-Zahrani.

During the tour, he said the deployment is important as it constitutes a prelude to the south's return to Lebanese sovereignty. He added: We should not give the enemy any excuse to shake our credibility in front of our kin and the world or to undermine our ability to play our national role.

General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, toured the Ghanaian contingent's positions in the Lebanese Army's deployment areas and urged the soldiers to speed up the dismantling of installations so that they could be redeployed in other areas in the south.

The Amal Movement's Beirut command has praised the Army deployment in Tyre, saying that it represents a step toward protecting the south against Israeli attacks.

In a statement issued yesterday, the movement made a call to expand the area of deployment and to reinforce the Army with troops and hardware, enabling it to confront the Zionist onslaught aimed at harming the domestic situation.

Report Says Economy Grew in 1991

NC0102101492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] According to a report by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Beirut, the gross domestic product increased 37 percent, or $3.7 billion, in 1991. In the same year, commercial banks' credit to economic sectors rose 27 percent to $7.5 billion. Lebanese banks' assets abroad increased in value by 14.8 percent, to total $2.3 billion.

Al-Nabatiyah, Army Barracks Shelled

NC2901145692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Israeli occupation forces shelled the town of al-Nabatiyah this afternoon. Several shells reportedly fell on a Lebanese Army barracks and one landed near Lebanese University.

Israeli Forces Storm, Besiege Towns

NC0202154492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Security reports from the occupied border strip indicate that the occupation forces have stormed and besieged al-Tayyibah and Dayr Siryan towns and prevented the youngsters from leaving the towns in an effort to enlist them in the militia.

The Israeli forces detained three residents of al-Tayyibah town; Ahmad Abu-Ta'an, 'Abbas Husayn Nahlah, and 'Abbas 'Abd-al-Nabi Nahlah.

Village Details Hardships of 'Zionist Siege'

NC0402091792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The inhabitants of Dayr Siryan have issued a statement detailing the hardships inflicted on them as a result of the enemy Zionist siege of their village. The inhabitants noted that the enemy forces have involuntary conscripted a number of students to the South Lebanese Army. The inhabitants called on all humanitarian groups and organizations to help lift the siege on their village and end the arbitrary measures the Zionist and Lahd forces are taking against them.

Cuban Vice President Holds News Conference

Notes Syrian-Cuban Ties

JN0102180092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 1 Feb (SANA)—Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, held a news conference this morning with local, Arab, and foreign reporters in which he spoke about the traditional relations between Syria and Cuba in all fields.

Fernandez said that the Cuban delegation's visit to Syria is one of friendship and cooperation, aimed at exchanging views with Syrian officials on issues of interest to both countries.

Fernandez expressed his country's solidarity with the just struggle Syria is waging, affirming that Syria is a friendly country and that the historical relations between the two countries are full of amity and solidarity, and that these ties can be expanded in all fields.

Fernandez added that Cuba and its government support all the Arab people, particularly the Palestinian people. He said: We support the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and the restoration of all the occupied Arab territories.

The Cuban official added: We not only support the Palestinian people's aspirations to liberation, but also their struggle to regain their rights.

Fernandez called on all those currently participating in the Middle East peace conference to seek the implementation of justice in the region.

Regarding developments in the Soviet Union, Fernandez said: We view what has taken place there as the result of mistakes made during the process of establishing socialism. He added: What is important for us is that socialism remains a system with a future.

Fernandez said: We in Cuba did not copy our socialism from this or that regime. In light of the fact that there were some mistakes in the past, we have been implementing a program since 1986 to correct these errors. He affirmed that socialism is the only system that could solve Cuba's problems since it embodies a society where justice prevails. He added: This is so because our people support the system and it is the only means of solving our problems.

On Cuba's stand vis-a-vis the multilateral talks, which convened in Moscow without Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians, Fernandez said: Our position is that all problems should be settled through talks and negotiations. We believe that the Moscow negotiations, and what preceded them, should lead to the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and the restoration of the occupied Arab territories by way of talks between the parties concerned.

Regarding Cuba's ability to survive despite the siege imposed on it, Fernandez said: What has helped us to stand fast is no secret. Everybody knows how we stood fast and how the Cuban revolution fundamentally changed Cuban society. This has had a great impact on all fields of our society.

Fernandez concluded by saying: We did not import the Cuban revolution, nor was it offered to us as a gift. We carried it out and struggled long and hard against an armed despotic regime. We are now preparing to face the new situation.

Fernandez Departs Damascus 2 Feb

JN0202113792 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0903 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 2 Feb (SANA)—Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, left Damascus early this morning at the conclusion of a visit to Syria that lasted several days.

Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Cuban ambassador in Damascus, and embassy members bid him farewell at Damascus International Airport.

Afghanistan

Rebels To Back UN Plan If Islamic Regime Results

BK0402011092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1824 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 3 (AFP)—More than 550 mojahedin commanders have vowed at a meeting in Afghanistan to continue their holy war to oust President Najibollah and establish an Islamic government, a statement said Monday.

A statement released in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar said the commanders met in the Afghan Province of Paktia from January 27 to February 1 to discuss the political and military situation in Afghanistan.

It said the meeting of commanders decided to agree to a UN peace plan for Afghanistan provided it met expectations for the establishment of an Islamic government.

The plan requires clarifications, the statement said.

"If the five-point plan is not against the expectations of our jihad (holy war) and national interest and results in the establishment of Islamic government, it will not be opposed," the statement said.

The UN blueprint calls for a ceasefire and installation of an interim administration ahead of elections.

UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali has directed his personal envoy Benon Sevan to intensify consultations with all parties for the convening of an inter-Afghan assembly.

Pakistan has backed the initiative saying it would not allow hardline mojahedin leaders to block the implementation of the UN plan.

Some radical factions have rejected any negotiations with the Kabul government, describing the UN plan as a scheme to impose a settlement on the Afghan nation.

The commanders called on leaders of all mojahedin parties to foil "foreign plots to interfere in our country," warning that otherwise the "integrity of Afghanistan will be imperiled," the statement said.

The Paktia meeting set up a commission to chart out a "comprehensive" strategy for organizing an "Islamic army" and achieving the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan, it added.

Hekmatyar Warns Against Pakistani Appeasement

BK0202124692 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 1 Feb 92 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Without naming Wali Khan, Hezb-e Eslami Chief Golboddin Hekmatyar on Friday took exception to the assertions of a "Pakhtoon politician" and hoped that Pakistan would not adopt a policy on Afghanistan to appease and gratify the enemies of Pakistan.

"All Afghans and patriotic Pakistanis will be surprised if Pakistan adopts a policy that pleases the Indian and Soviet agents," said Hekmatyar, quoted by the Afghan news Agency. Those, he said, who were rejoining now, opposed the Pakistan's Afghan policy in the past to realise their cherished goal of a Pakhtoonistan by wishing the Red Army to cross Towr Kham. It was for the sake of this goal that they raised red flags and put on red caps, he remarked.

Calling such 'elements' as unscrupulous champions of Pakhtoons, the Hezb-e Eslami Chief accused them of exploding 'Kabul bombs' on the streets of Pakistan and attempting to pit the locals regarding Afghanistan. He continued saying that such discredited and faceless elements, having no place in the hearts of millions of people of Pakistan would only serve to discredit the government with which they chose to stand.

It was the plan of the enemies of Pakistan and Afghanistan, he claimed, to create a wedge between them and revive the bitter past between the two countries.

Claiming that ther was no chance for the re-imposition of former Afghan Monarch Zahir Shah, the Afghan leader urged the United Nations not to mar its prestige by resorting to such futile attempts which he felt would only serve to complicate the issue and intensify bloodshed. He wondered why some circles in Pakistan were trying to resort to such a failed attempt with the price of alienating its real friends.

Rebel Leader Criticizes Pakistan's Afghan Policy

BK0202124292 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 1 Feb 92 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Pakistan would feel sorry for its new Afghan policy and will regret it, but it will be too late then. This was stated by Professor Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyal, Chief of Etehad-e Eslami Afghanistan on Friday.

In an interview with the al Bunyan News Agency Sayyaf said those who wanted to hurt the mojahedin and treat them like foes were in fact declaring enmity with Allah. He urged Mojahedin to strengthen their ranks to preserve the gains of Islamic jehad.

Sayyaf demanded of Pakistan "not to put in to practice the nefarious plans of the enemies of Islam against the wishes of mojahedin." Those friends of ours who now say that only the Islamic fundamentalists were opposed to the resolution of the Afghan problem, should think of the day when these very same people stood in the way of red flood of communism and saved our neighbouring countries from it, he remarked.

He further warned that playing with the sacrifices and lofty goals of Jehad was not a moral act and could not have any good consequences. He was certain that even if

the governments of the day in Pakistan stood against the aims and objectives of Jehad, Pakistani nation would preserve their ties with the Afghans.

Angrily rejecting outside attempts for reinstatement of Zahir Shah, Mr Sayyaf reiterated his stand for the establishment of an Islamic government of the mojahedin and pledged not to give in to international conspiracies.

Bangladesh

Parliament Begins Debate on Burma Border Tension

BK0302162592 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] this evening is holding a full-scale general discussion on the Bangladesh-Myanmar [Burma] border situation. The situation following the incident of Myanmar attack on Rezupara border post in Cox's Bazar on the 21st of December last and the problem of continued flow of Rohingya refugees are being discussed in detail. Taking part in the discussion, the education minister, Zamiruddin Sirkar, said Bangladesh believes in peaceful solution of the tense border situation. He detailed the steps taken by the government in the wake of the Myanmar action on the BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] outpost. Mr. Sirkar reiterated the government's resolve not to send back the Rohingyas to their homes without Myanmar's assurance of their respectable rehabilitation in Arakan.

Information Minister Najmul Huda said Bangladesh has four options open before it to overcome the situation. These are war, (?confrontation), international relations, and quiet diplomacy. He said Bangladesh is pursuing quiet diplomacy to resolve the crisis. Thirty members, both from the Treasury and the opposition benches, so far took part in the discussion until reports last came in. [passage omitted]

Opposition Calls Policy 'Weak-Kneed'

BK0402052292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Bangladesh says that at least 45,000 Myanmar [Burmese] Muslim refugees have entered the country recently. This was stated by the Bangladeshi foreign minister, Mr. Rahman, during a discussion in Parliament in Dhaka last night on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border situation. The opposition members, including the leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, criticized the government for pursuing what they described as a weak-kneed foreign policy in dealing with the military rulers of Myanmar.

India

Ministry Protests Pakistani Commissioner's Statement

BK0302162792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] India today strongly protested to the statement on Kashmir made by the Pakistan high commissioner, Mr. Abdul Sattar, in an interview to a daily in New Delhi yesterday.

Reacting sharply, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman questioned the possible motivation of the high commissioner at a time when the prime ministers of the two countries are taking steps to reduce border tension.

The spokesman said that Mr. Sattar's statement on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is totally unacceptable and it has caused deep concern to New Delhi. He said that India is also somewhat curious as to which body of the opinion in Pakistan the high commissioner sought to represent. The spokesman said that in making such a statement, New Delhi is fully aware that there are several elements in Pakistan which are vehemently opposed to the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Rao Calls For Better Ties With Pakistan

BK0402071292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister has said that India should continue the dialogue with Pakistan at all levels to improve bilateral relations in spite of differences on certain issues. He was talking to newspersons at the Palam airport after his return from the five-day tour abroad. Mr. Rao said we are mature enough not to lose sight of our objectives to have good relations, and New Delhi and Islamabad must make efforts in this direction. Mr. Narasimha Rao also said he had free and frank talks with the Pakistani prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, and made India's position on Kashmir abundantly clear.

Asked about the Pakistani High Commissioner Mr. Abdul Sattar's statement in New Delhi, Mr. Rao said it was not necessary to raise the issue during his talks with Mr. Sharif. In reply to a question on the Pakistani prime minister's call for a bundh [strike] in his country tomorrow to express, what he called, solidarity with the people of Kashmir, Mr. Rao said he was not surprised. He said even the discordant notes have their significance and one has to draw one's own conclusions.

The prime minister said that the views expressed by the heads of state and government at the Security Council summit were loud and clear and there was similarity of opinion. Those who attended the summit were of the view that the Security Council should continue its efforts to narrow down the differences on different world issues. Mr. Narasimha Rao said he had the opportunity to put India's viewpoint on different issues during his talks with the world leaders. He said at Davos he met leading

industrialists of the world and talked to them about India's recently liberalized industrial policy and economic reforms. He said many industrialists from different countries showed a keen interest in the government's industrial policy.

Rao in Davos; Speaks on Energy, Pakistani Ties

BK0402052492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister has invited foreign investment to promote basic infrastructure and nonconventional energy sources in the country. Talking to industrialists and businessmen after his speech at the World Economic Forum at Davos yesterday, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that investments will be subject to the needs of the people of India.

Addressing a news conference in Davos, Switzerland before leaving for New Delhi, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that promotion of nonconventional energy sources is the priority sector. The government will welcome offers from any consortium for joint research activity in this sector. The prime minister said that several Western countries have evinced interest in investing in the telecom sector in India and some technical problems in this regard are being sorted out.

On India-Pakistan ties, Mr. Rao said that during their talks the Pakistani Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif has agreed on the need for reducing defense expenditure. He said mere expression of intent is not enough as lot of things need to be done before this could be achieved.

30 Injured After Procession Turns Violent

BK0402033592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] In Madras, about 30 persons, including 10 policemen, were injured when police resorted to lathi [cane] charge and buckshot firing at a DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] procession yesterday evening. According to the police, a section of the procession had turned violent and pelted stones compelling the police to use force. However, Mr. Aruna, spokesman of the DMK, alleged that the police protection was inadequate and they resorted to force without any provocation. The DMK took out the procession in protest against the alleged misuse of TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act] in the state. The DMK chief, Mr. Karunanidhi, and his colleagues submitted a memorandum to the governor.

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni Warns Against U.S. Objectives

LD0302162492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0933 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni on 1 February at the 10 Days of Dawn celebration at the shrine of the late Imam Khomeyni—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Today the United States intends to become the biggest world power. All Muslims should know that if the United States achieves this ambition, our fate will be a bitter one. We Muslims, whether in Iran or in other Islamic countries, should strive with all our might to prevent the United States from realizing its fundamental goal—that is, the new world order, or in other words, its mastery and domination over the world. [audience chants "Death to America and Israel"]

One of the issues mentioned by the imam was the export of the revolution. The imam graciously said: We shall export our revolution to the world. The imam said: Our revolution has been exported to the world. The export of revolution does not require tanks, artillery, or machine guns. Has our revolution not been exported to the world? Is it not the case now that the African countries are following our Islam, the Islam of your imam? Is it not true today that the countries of Asia, that is the Muslims in Asia, are in favor of your imam's Islam and your Islam? Do the Muslims of Europe not support your Islam today? Everyone wants your Islam. Our Islam has been exported. Our revolution has been exported.

We, in accordance with instructions of the imam, export our revolution to the world. We, in accordance with the imam's decree and his policy, should support any Muslim who raises his voice in the world. [shouts of approval from the audience] The imam's line is the policy of neither East nor West, the policy of defending the oppressed.

We will have a grudge against the enmity of the United States in our hearts forever unless it behaves itself. The imam has said: The archenemy is the United States. We hold enmity against the United States in our hearts, and we bear a revolutionary grudge against the United States. The United States is against our Islam, our people, our revolution, our clergy, and our oppressed masses. The United States will leave Iran alone only on one condition, and that is when you, the people and the officials, abandon the imam's revolutionary Islam. [crowd chants "Death to America"] All our officials agree with this.

I therefore state to you the people that if you wish to safeguard the imam's line, you must remain in the political arena. If you wish to preserve the imam's line, you must not abandon your principles.

We realize that you are beset with problems. We know that you are facing hardships. But you should also know that every revolution goes through hard times until it reaches its objectives. Every revolution faces difficulty. You must come to terms with this difficulty, and you should not leave the arena. If you wish to please God, the Prophet of God, the holy saints, and our dear imam, you must maintain your presence.

The imam said in his predictions: If you wish your revolution to survive, you must maintain your motives. These are: 1) faith in God; and 2) unity. [passage omitted]

During the imam's life he was the pivot; and today the great leader of the revolution His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenc'i is the pivot. I, as the imam's son, reiterate before you brothers and sisters that following Khamene'i is the same as following Khomeyni. It does not make any difference. You must realize this. If you wish to safeguard your revolution, if you wish to attain the imam's objectives, and if you wish to stand against the United States of America and the united West, you must follow the leader alone. No matter how revolutionary a person is, no matter how pretentious a clergyman is, no matter how often one gets up in the middle of the night to say prayers, if he does not pursue the line of the leadership in the world today, he is betraying the people because if we abandon our unity we will fail. This is certain, and no one should doubt it.

We therefore need a figurehead to rally around, someone who issues orders for the others to carry out. That figurehead is the vali-ye faqih. His holiness the imam said: The orders of the vali-ye faqih are above everyone else's, and we are all duty bound to listen and obey.

I, as the imam's son, address my leader from this place: O Leader! I am your devotee, and whatever you say I shall listen to like an ordinary soldier, and I shall not disobey your orders. I hereby pledge to my imam and to my people and to God that I shall maintain this attitude forever. I am grateful to all you brothers and sisters for coming here. O God, bless the 10 Days of Dawn to everyone. O God, grant us success to implement the aspirations of our dear imam in the best possible manner. O God, grant plenty of experience to our guests, who have come here from various countries, to return to their countries and think of establishing Islamic governments in their own countries. May you all be successful. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

Tajikistan, Uzbekistan ECO Membership Approved

LD0302174392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian' 1530 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] On the eve of the Economic Cooperation Organization's [ECO] foreign ministerial session in Ankara, following Iran's declaration of approval of the membership of the Republics of Azerbaijan and Turkmenia in the ECO, and based on previous coordination with two other ECO member states, Pakistan and Turkey, an informed source at our country's Foreign Ministry announced this morning: Because the Republics of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have applied for membership in the ECO, the Islamic Republic of Iran hereby declares its approval of the membership of those two republics.

The official added: The final decision on this matter will be made at the session of the [foreign] ministers of the three countries, and ultimately at the summit.

Karrubi Says Budget Emphasizes Development Projects

LD0302175892 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi, said at a press interview here today that the 1371 (1992-93) national budget concentrates mainly on infrastructual development projects.

He said the budget (which becomes effective at the turn of the calendar year on March 21, 1992) does not envisage any increase in cost of government commodities and services. The original budget bill, according to the Majlis speaker, has been improved by another rls [rials] 1,200 billion although the government loans have remained as they were in the first five-year national development plan.

Hoj. Karrubi said the original budget bill allocated rls 850 billion to finance salary increases of regular government employees which, he said, was later on increased to rls 1,100 billion.

About rls 130 billion have been allocated for unforeseen developments, rls 20 billion for urban and rural cooperatives, rls 20 billion for supporting the Islamic revolution in Palestine and rls 200 billion for helping intending brides and bridegrooms.

Rls 247 billion has been allocated for fighting backwardness in the geographically remote areas of the country.

The budget for elementary and high school education has been improved by 24 per cent as compared with the education budget of the previous year, also the higher education budget is up by 55 per cent as compared with that of the last year.

In the 1371-budget the elementary and high school education budget shows an increase of rls 48 billion and the budget for the higher education is up by rls 85 billion as compared with the draft of the budget bill.

The Majlis speaker said in a bid to economize on dollar [dls] expenditures the overseas bureaus of government agencies will be somewhat limited and will be pending the approval of same by the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the cabinet.

For the next calendar year, starting on March 21, the Oil Ministry will receive an additional budget for refining 270 barrels of oil per day. The oil, according to the Majlis speaker, has said [as received] that once the additional budget for refinery purposes is approved it will offer oil and its derivatives to the consumers without need for maintaining the present rationing system on kerosene, which some percentage of the Iranians use as fuel to heat their spaces in winter, in addition to motor oil.

The hojjat ol-eslam said the 1371-budget also includes dlrs 180 million allocation in foreign currency to buy

parts for piped gas projects in towns and cities in addition to rls 100 billion bank facilities for the National Iranian Gas Company.

The 1371-budget, he said, has better provisions for revenue sources and a lower reliance on petro-dollars. Moreover tax revenues, and especially revenue from direct taxation, is up as compared with the this year's budget.

The Majlis speaker observed that next year's budget bill is characterized by a more balanced revenues and expenditures, and a lower borrowing from the domestic sources.

It provides for rls 623 billion, that is 5.4 per cent of the total budget which is below the total government borrowings in the previous years.

Pakistan

Israeli Recognition To Come Only After Peace

BK0302015192 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Feb 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] Washington—Stating that she has been misquoted on the issue of Israel's recognition, Pakistan ambassador to United States, Syeda Abida Hussain, said Saturday that Pakistan can think of doing so, if the Arabs and Israelis come to a settlement.

In a statement issued to the press, the ambassador said, "My attention has been drawn to a news item, suggesting that I have indicated softening by Pakistan on the issue of recognition of Israel. This is false, malicious and quoted out of context."

"In light of India's recognition of Israel, when questioned, I stated that unlike India, which has withdrawn her support to Palestinians after 40 years and even after the Palestinians failed to support the Kashmiri struggle, Pakistan could only think of recognising Israel after a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute."

Although Pakistan does not have a direct confrontation with Israel yet Pakistan's solid commitment to Palestine and the interests of her Muslim brethren distinguish her position from that of India, whose championing of the Arab cause was always a diplomatic ploy, which finally stands exposed, she added.

Uzbekistan President Discusses Ties

BK0302150292 Islamabad Pakistan Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Feb 92 (Tentative)

[Text] Uzbekistan says it will establish closer political, cultural, and economic and trade ties with Pakistan. This was stated by the president of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam Karimov, while talking to the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Davos. The president of Uzbekistan said people of his country have close ties with the people of Pakistan. He hoped that the Afghanistan issue will be solved in the near future. This in return will help in establishing easier trade relations between the two countries.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, said Pakistan wants to establish good relations with the republics of the Central Asia. He invited the Uzbek president to visit Pakistan which was accepted by President Karimov.

The foreign minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. (Abdur Rauf Ghaffar), held talks with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo. During the talks, matters relating to expansion of economic and trade relations between the two countries and other issues of importance were discussed.

Premier Declares Day of Solidarity With Kashmiris

BK0302050192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the nation to express complete solidarity with the Kashmiri brethren who are untiringly struggling for the independence of their motherland. Declaring 5 February as the day of solidarity, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has asked the Pakistanis and the Kashmiris throughout the world to observe a total strike on 5 February so as to apprise the world of the atrocities by the Indian forces on innocent people in the occupied Kashmir.

In a message on the occasion, he said that the Kashmiris are making peaceful efforts to realize their just cause. But the intransigence of the Indian authorities and serious violations of human rights have forced them to raise voice against the oppression. The prime minister has also urged the world community to use its influence to get the UN resolutions implemented. The resolutions provide for conducting a plebiscite under the the auspices of the world body. He appealed to the Pakistanis and Kashmiris around the world to hold peaceful rallies and meetings as a show of solidarity to the Kashmiri brethren and offer special prayers. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif expressed the hope that the people in the occupied Kashmir will succeed in their just struggle and their great sacrifices will definitely bear fruit. He declared a general holiday on 5 February. Offices of the federal and provincial governments and autonomous departments will remain closed on that day.